

Release voted for all 330 French

Heath frees 33 Britons held hostage in Iraq

By NICHOLAS BEESTON IN BAGHDAD AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE former prime minister Edward Heath was flying out of Baghdad last night with 33 freed British hostages after his "humanitarian mission" to Iraq.

Another four or five have been given permission to leave, but were not ready for last night's flight. A further five are to have their cases reviewed, and Mr Heath won a promise that about 30 detainees would be allowed home when their contracts expired at the end of the month.

Although the number freed yesterday was well short of the 200 on the list given to President Saddam Hussein on Sunday, Mr Heath said that those returning home represented most of the deserving cases. "I would obviously have liked to have had all the British return home," he told a press conference, "but I am satisfied."

Besides the Britons released yesterday, 14 Americans were allowed to fly to Amman, and the Iraqi parliament voted to free all 330 French captives in Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Final details of the British party, which included two pet dogs, were announced only

two hours before the Virgin Atlantic jumbo jet touched down in Baghdad. Richard Branson, the airline owner, arrived with a 13-strong medical team and equipment including a makeshift intensive care unit.

The airline had offered places on the flight to hopeful relatives, but only Frank and Diane Hessey decided to travel. Their journey proved worthwhile as Mr Hessey's sister Maureen Wilbraham and her husband Tony, who is suffering from lung cancer, were among those freed.

Mary Wright, aged 70, of Musselburgh in Scotland, and her husband Jim, were also allowed out. "I only found out I was going home when the ambassador phoned me and asked if I could have my things packed in six seconds," Mrs Wright said. "The first thing I will do when I get home is tear up my passport."

There was disappointment, however, for 43 British nurses and about 150 transit passengers who had been aboard a British Airways flight and were trapped in Kuwait when Iraq invaded on August 2. There are now an estimated 1,300 Britons caught in the two countries.

Mr Heath said it was for others to judge whether his mission had been a success. "All I know is that all those going back will be grateful and so will their relatives," he denied that his visit had been a public relations victory for Iraq and insisted that there had been no negotiations on political matters, but he reiterated that the confrontation could and should be resolved by peaceful means.

As he spoke, there were further indications of an all-Arab initiative. While Saudi Arabia was anxious to reassure its Western allies that suggestions by its defence minister that Kuwait might cede some territory to Iraq did not constitute a relaxing of its demand for an unconditional withdrawal, King Fahd made what was seen as his most conciliatory approach to President Saddam.

The king assured the Iraqi leader that he would not lose face if he withdrew. "It would be nothing to cause anxiety or pain, but to the contrary, He

will find it is in the interest of Iraq, in his personal interest and in the interest of the Arab nation that he pull out from Kuwait." If President Saddam acted on the advice, "I think he will get thanks."

Western observers said there was a growing distinction between Arab public statements and those from Western leaders. President Bush did his best to quell talk of compromise by accusing President Saddam of crimes against humanity. "There can never be compromise, any compromise with this kind of aggression," he said during a campaign speech in Burlington, Vermont. "It isn't oil we're concerned about, it is aggression. And this aggression is not going to stand."

"Good God. This is the 1990s and you see this man starving out small embassies. There's a parallel between what Hitler did to Poland and what Saddam Hussein has done to Kuwait."

"You know what happened in Kuwait the other day? Two young kids, 15, passing out leaflets. Iraqi soldiers came, got their parents out and made them watch as they shot them. They had people on dialysis machines and they ripped them off and sent the dialysis machines to Baghdad. And they had kids in incubators and they threw them out so Kuwait could be systematically dismantled."

Margaret Thatcher and the exiled emir of Kuwait also underlined their resolve to make Iraq withdraw during talks in Downing Street yesterday.

Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, yesterday visited the State Department to insist that there had been no change of policy in his country. But Jay Kosminsky, of the Washington-based Heritage Foundation, said: "Clearly they are signalling a softening. The longer we delay and the less resolve we show, the more the Saudis will think that maybe they are going to have to live with Saddam Hussein and look for ways to accommodate him."

Easy target, page 2
Families suffer, page 9
Leading article, page 13

Economy facing a technical recession

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

TREASURY officials are understood to believe that a brief "technical" recession in the economy is now almost inevitable.

Ministers are being given warnings that the gross domestic product is likely to decline in the third and fourth quarters. It will be the first sequence of two consecutive declines in GDP since 1981. This is the standard definition of recession used by most economists.

Despite this, officials believe the decline in output will prove short-lived and shallow. They think it unlikely that GDP will fall for as long as a full year, and virtually exclude the possibility of a downturn as severe as the last two recessions in 1973-75 and 1979-81 when GDP declined for almost two years running. Nevertheless, the realis-

tion that the economy is moving into recession is said to have played a crucial role in the decision to cut interest rates and enter the European exchange-rate mechanism.

The Association of British Chambers of Commerce has added its voice to the growing chorus in industry, the City, and Westminster which fears the economy has entered a recession.

In what is believed to be its most extensive business survey to date, the association reports a dramatic deterioration in domestic manufacturing orders and exports, and recession spreading to the service sector. The "severe recession" identified in the survey of 6,000 companies challenges the Treasury view of a pause in growth.

Severe recession, page 25



MI acid scare: Firemen wearing protective clothing and breathing apparatus to tackle a spillage of hydro-bromic acid after a multiple accident on the M1 near Luton airport

yesterday (Kevin Eason writes). More than 30 drivers and police needed treatment after inhaling toxic fumes from fractured drums and residents of the nearby village of Slip End were

warned to keep windows and doors shut. The accident, which happened at 6.45am, led to the closure of the motorway in both directions and tailbacks of 25 miles as traffic funnelled down side

roads. The M1 northbound was reopened at lunchtime but the southbound carriageway is likely to be closed throughout today at least while the traces of the acid are cleared up.

Lawson attacks 'tragedy' of ERM

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

NIGEL Lawson, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday attacked the prime minister and John Major, his successor, by indicating support for Labour's claim that they had taken Britain into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system for short-term political reasons.

In the Commons debate on ERM, Mr Lawson welcomed Britain's entry, but declared that it was a "real tragedy" that it had not gone in at least five years ago, as his former Cabinet colleagues could testify he had been urging. The former Chancellor sided publicly with the Bank of England against the government by saying that it would have been wiser to have gone into the ERM first and to have cut interest rates later. Britain would now pay the price for linking the two moves, he said.

The resultant cynicism in the markets would make it harder to achieve further interest rate cuts as soon as might have been possible if things had been done the other way around.

Shortly before Mr Lawson spoke, Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, had accused the prime minister of agreeing to British entry into the ERM only because she needed to take a percentage point interest rate cut to the Conservative conference.

Tory MPs were clearly shaken by Mr Lawson's intervention and the extent of his willingness to reverse himself on the prime minister's year after his departure from the Cabinet on the ERM issue. But it was only his third Commons speech since resigning as chancellor and in every one he has argued the case for ERM entry.

Mr Lawson, who never mentioned Mrs Thatcher

Continued on page 24, col 1

Diary, page 12

Leading article, page 13

Political sketch, page 24

Newton to announce child benefit increase

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHILD benefit is to be increased by about £1 a week for the first child at a cost of about £250 million in a social security budget settlement to be announced today by Tony Newton.

The social security secretary will seek to reassert the Conservatives' claim to be the party of the family by disclosing that the three-year freeze on a benefit that costs the Treasury £4.6 billion a year is to be partly ended. Full uprating would have cost £390 million after taking into account consequent reductions in payments to families on income support.

Mr Newton will tell MPs that the weekly payment of £7.25 for first-born children is to be increased by more than the rate of inflation to £8.25 from next April. Nearly seven million mothers will gain from the increase. Rates for other children will remain frozen.

The level of the increase will be more than a straight uprating in line with inflation, which is running at 10.9 per cent. The reasoning behind the formula is that it conforms with Tory policy of targeting benefit increases, it will help first-time mothers when they give up work, and it will prove attractive to women who decide to resume a career after

having a child but want help with nursery costs.

Mr Newton has considered a related option advanced by the Centre for Policy Studies, a leading right-wing think-tank, which wanted full uprating for children under five at about half the cost of the chosen solution. Although this option is much cheaper it was not adopted because it would mean taking money off mothers once their children started school.

Mr Newton's announcement is bound to be widely welcomed by Conservative MPs, who are badly in need of some good news after the party's drubbing in the Eastbourne by-election. It will be seen as a remarkable victory for Mr Newton, one of the cabinet's less glamorous figures, in his long-running struggle with the Treasury.

Tory MPs are also likely to give some of the credit to Margaret Thatcher after her eleventh-hour intervention in which she summoned both Mr Newton and Norman Lamont, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, to No 10 for talks on Mr Newton's annual social security package, which will rise to £60 billion next year. However after the disclosure that she did no more than endorse a package drawn up a week ago between her two

cabinet colleagues, some Conservatives will be reluctant to switch the spotlight away from Mr Newton.

Backbenchers will view the move as lending them powerful ammunition in the battle for votes in the run-up to the next election. While Mrs Thatcher and her closest policy advisers have identified the family as a key battleground, Labour has been making most of the running, particularly among young women, as it has trumpeted its proposals on social issues such as health, education and child care. Now the Tories have a platform from which to launch a counter-attack.

Last night, as Labour got wind of today's announcement, the party launched a pre-emptive strike, saying that an extra £1 a week for the first child was a mere sop offered by a government panicked by the Eastbourne result and the realisation of the unpopularity of its perpetual freeze.

Cost of children, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Bad teachers' pay penalty

John MacGregor, the education secretary, warned bad teachers that they could no longer expect automatic annual pay rises based on their length of service. He told the Interim Pay Committee on Teachers Pay that he expected it to advise schools and local authorities that they could withhold pay rises from "ineffective" teachers. Under the pay and conditions agreement signed by teachers it has always been open for employers to refuse to pay regular rises but in reality the power has been rarely used. Page 5

Pay rise demand, page 7

MP dies

Norman Buchan, the Labour MP for Paisley South, died yesterday at the age of 67. There is also a by-election pending in Paisley North following the death last month of Allen Adams. Page 7

Obituary, page 14

Supermarriage



Wow! Pow! Superman, in the guise of mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent, is about to take the plunge - not into a storm-tossed sea from 5,000 feet but into matrimony with his colleague of 52 years, delectable Lois Lane. Page 9

Receiver threat

Polly Peck International, the fruit trading and electronics group, faces the appointment of administrative receivers today unless it can produce up to £30 million from deposits in northern Cyprus to satisfy bank demands. Pages 25, 27

Manager fined

Arsenal fined their manager, George Graham, and five players after the brawl at Manchester United. Page 42

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Gorbachev bill to curb republics

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet parliament today will consider legislation that would reverse at a stroke many of the constitutional gains made by the Soviet Union's 15 republics in the past year and give President Gorbachev draconian powers to hire and fire officials and workers.

The bill, which is bound to provoke an outcry in the Russian federation and in those republics which are seeking independence from the Soviet Union, has not been published in advance.

It outlaws all past and future attempts by republic parliaments to halt or restrict the validity of Soviet law on their territory and establishes that Soviet law takes precedence if there is any conflict between republic laws and USSR law.

Any measures taken by individual republics to preempt USSR legislation will also be considered illegal and have no force in law.

Union fraud, page 10

Delors unveils vision of a federal Europe

From MICHAEL BINYON IN STRASBOURG

JAQUES DELORS yesterday unveiled for the first time the EC Commission's vision of a future federal Europe, with the European Parliament as its legislature, the Commission as its executive and the Council of Ministers as its senate.

The president of the commission also called for majority voting in those areas where decisions are still made unanimously: tax, social affairs, the environment, agriculture and energy, and called for the gradual integration of foreign and defence policy in the EC.

M Delors also challenged "our British friends" to come

clean and say whether they wanted a Community or merely a group of nation states. If it was the latter, they should say so clearly. His waspish remarks to MEPs came after a joint meeting with EC foreign ministers to discuss political union and parliament's demands for greater power and the right to propose legislation.

M Delors and most EC governments strongly opposed Strasbourg sharing such power with Brussels. This

Continued on page 24, col 6

Missile project, page 10

Cathedral choir becomes nuclear powered

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

THE power was added to the glory yesterday, when a nuclear power company announced a £250,000 sponsorship of one of the country's top cathedral choirs. In return for providing £25,000 a year for 10 years, Nuclear Electric, based in Bristol, will have its logo featured on song books, records and cathedral literature. A plaque will commemorate the liaison, although the choristers' red-and-white cassocks and surplices will remain logo-free. Hymns and canticles will not be sung to order, although the choristers will be available to perform at some Nuclear Electric functions.

Bristol cathedral choir is believed to be the first sponsored by a single industry, but at least two other cathedrals, Salisbury and Ely, are considering launching plans to obtain business

sponsorship for their choristers. Nuclear Electric, the company responsible for Britain's nuclear power stations, launched the choir deal at the city-centre cathedral under the heading "The Power and the Glory". The deal has guaranteed the future of the choir of 18 boys from Bristol Cathedral School, lay clerks and choral scholars, which costs more than £35,000 a year to run.

The cathedral, which earlier this year announced £500,000 sponsorship of a new visitors' centre by the Gateway supermarket, is also seeking business help for its sub-standard lighting and historic flooring, badly in need of repair.

William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister, who is chairman of the Bristol Cathedral Trust, said the choral tradition could now carry on into the 21st century.

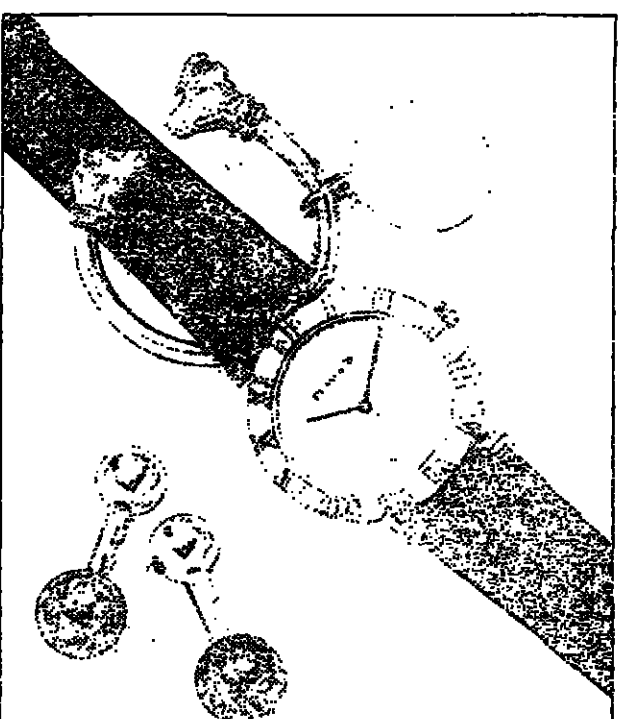
Canon Dennis Green, of Ely Cathedral, said an attempt to find sponsorship

for individual choristers about seven years ago did not succeed. The choir accounts for a large proportion of the annual £250,000 cost of worship: the cathedral pays bursaries for choristers to attend The King's School in Ely. One idea is to put a sponsor's name on the medallion worn by the choristers.

The dean at Salisbury said finance was being sought for a new girls' choir to be launched next September. The Very Rev Hugh Dickinson said: "We have thrown the idea of sponsorship around but it is still pretty nebulous."

Stanley Kjaer, director of the Christian Association of Business Executives, said: "Powerful patrons in the Middle Ages and before built cathedrals. It is very appropriate that their equivalent should keep them going today."

IBA ruling, page 3
Diary, page 12



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BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

Peter Henley, vice president of

Mr Sedley described to the court three of the allegations of abuse made against a sergeant lance-corporal and two privates.

In April 1985, the incident in which he was dragged from his bed and assaulted took place at Brook barracks near Spandau, Berlin. The case continues today.

Iraqi hardship, Page 9



the chaos in the chambers and the evidence of a robbers' tunnel that had been refilled by the royal necropolis authorities not long after Tutankhamun's death in 1323 BC, concluded that the looters had roamed through the whole tomb, pausing only at the gates of the gilded shrine that

Guard duty: Francesco Cossiga, the president of Italy, inspecting a guard of honour provided by 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, after alighting from the royal train at Victoria station at the start of a five-day state visit yesterday. Last night, President Cossiga attended a state banquet in his honour at Buckingham Palace

By JILL SHERMAN
SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

At a press conference, committee members from both main parties said the treatment of the disabled was shocking. The report recommends that severe disability allowance should be increased to the same level as invalidity benefit. It also suggests that claims for disability allowance should form part of the local authority care assessment in addition to the simplified system that would be required for disabled people who were not assessed by local authorities.

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AND PETER VICTOR

He suggested that the airline and the aviation authorities should share some of the public criticism in the wake of the crash. "Should the accident have been attributable purely to our hasty

The charge of attempted murder and an offence of possessing explosives with intent to damage property were ordered to be kept on file.

The decision means that the case will have to be reconsidered by the magistrates.

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

Howard Carter, as he explored the chaos in the chambers and the evidence of a robbers' tunnel that had been refilled by the royal necropolis authorities not long after Tutankhamun's death in 1323 BC, concluded that the looters had roamed through the whole tomb, pausing only at the gates of the gilded shrine that

The first robbers wanted metal objects to melt down and recycle as anonymous bullion, but they also took linen and cosmetics. Dr Reeves says that since the lamellae were fat-based, their lifespan in the hot Egyptian climate would have been limited, indicating that

jewellery had been stolen. Eight solid gold rings were found in a knotted scarf, suggesting that the thieves were caught in the act. Since so much jewellery had already gone, Dr Reeves believes that the thieves had been in before and may have been members of the burial party.

The tribunal said that the ultimate aim of the *Mail's* owner, Associated Newspapers, had been to effect the debarring of individ-

Avon and Somerset police said that the disciplinary hearing was to determine what information was given to the sergeant and whether action should have been taken. The findings will be passed to David Shattock, chief constable of Avon and Somerset, who will decide on any disciplinary action.

Fire tragedy

A mother was killed yesterday when she went into a blazing bedroom wrongly thinking that her daughter was trapped there. Doreen Wright, of Basford, Nottingham, was overcome by smoke after the girl, Carol, her father and another daughter had already escaped down a ladder put up by the neighbour. A fire service spokesman said: "It appears that Mrs Wright thought her daughter was still in the bedroom. It was a tragic mistake."

Fireworks warnings

terday. John Austin-Walker, association chairman, said that local authorities were to check that shops did not sell fireworks to children under 16 by getting children to report offenders.

A rare white-tailed eagle yesterday sparked off a search by birdwatchers along England's eastern coast. The bird, with an 8 ft wing span, was seen at Easington, Humberside, and was later reported to have flown across the Humber towards Donna Nook, Lincolnshire.

CORRECTION
On page 13 yesterday we used picture incorrectly captioned by the Reuters news agency as being of Vladimir Kryuchkov, chief of the KGB. It was in fact of Vadim Bakatin, interior minister of the Soviet Union.

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Threat of humiliation led Marsh to shoot Warren, court told

By MICHAEL HORNELL

THE former world boxing champion Terry Marsh tried to murder his manager by shooting him through the chest because he faced humiliation and financial ruin after their partnership had turned sour, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

He was entangled in a libel action with the boxing promoter Frank Warren while still under contract to him, and owed more than £22,000 in VAT that he could not pay. Threatened with exposure as a "cheat and a liar" if he lost the high court action, he fired two shots from close range at Mr Warren outside an east London theatre, the jury was told.

Mr Warren, aged 38, who was suing the boxer over an allegation that he had allowed him to fight in spite of knowing that he was epileptic and unfit, was lucky to recover. The court was later told that Mr Marsh, aged 32, had admitted the shooting to a fellow remand prisoner at Wormwood Scrubs prison.

Mr Marsh, a former fireman and world light welterweight champion, denies the attempted murder of his manager on the night of November 30, 1989.

Ann Curnow, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury the story of the deteriorating relationship between the two men. Mr Warren was a self-made businessman who had become a noted boxing manager when he spotted Mr Marsh, who was in the Royal Marines, as a fighter with great potential.

Mr Marsh, of Basildon, Essex, signed his first contract with Mr Warren in September 1984 and was still under contract to him until last month. He had an unbeaten run while the two were in partnership and became world champion in March 1987, retaining the title the following July.

In September 1987 Mr Marsh signed a contract to defend his world title. Two days earlier he had passed a rigorous medical, but in the meantime a report appeared in *The Sun* effectively stating that Mr Marsh had epilepsy, sufferers of which are not allowed to box.

Miss Curnow said that the story implied that Mr Warren knew of his boxer's condition and to him this was a serious slur. Mr Warren issued a writ for libel against *The Sun* which was settled out of court. From this time the relationship deteriorated and Mr Marsh developed feelings of resentment and dislike for Mr Warren, Miss Curnow said.

Mr Warren, who had arranged for Mr Marsh to be a con-

mentor for ITV, saw to it that the boxer's services were terminated. A dispute over payments due under the contract followed. Meanwhile, the British Boxing Board of Control withdrew Mr Marsh's licence leaving him without an income at a time when he owed £22,000 to Customs and Excise.

Then, in January 1989, Mr Marsh appeared on television and explained that the dizzy spells from which he had suffered had not been caused by epilepsy. The interviewer questioned him closely, however, about his signing a contract when he believed himself to be suffering from epilepsy.

Miss Curnow said: "Marsh said he had told everyone who needed to know. Not just these words were important, but the way he said it there was the clearest implication again that Warren had known all along that he was signing a contract with a boxer who was unfit."

Mr Warren strongly rejected the suggestion and a libel writ was issued against Mr Marsh, who put forward a defence of justification in which he said that Mr Warren had known about his condition. By this stage Mr Marsh was in serious financial difficulties and was forced to disperse with his legal advisers, whom he could not pay.

Miss Curnow said: "Documents point to a strong motive for Warren who was entangled with Marsh under contract for another year, entangled with him in terms that Warren had not paid Marsh money due, entangled with him involving a £22,000 VAT bill, entangled in this action, which if he lost would mean he faced personal humiliation. He would be exposed as a cheat and a liar, not a boxer at the top of the tree."



Marsh: accused of trying to murder his boxing manager

who had signed his contract when he knew perfectly well he had no business in the ring."

On the night of the shooting Mr Warren arrived at the Broadway Theatre in Barking with his business partner, John Botros. It was shortly after 8pm and the two men were there to see one of Mr Warren's promotions.

Earlier a man had been seen waiting across the road. He wore an anorak with a hood and a scarf covering the lower part of his face. One of a nearby group of young people asked him what he was doing there. Another, who had once watched Terry Marsh train, later said that he thought the man had the same build, height, and local accent as the boxer.

As Mr Warren got out of his car he heard a bang and straightened. That shot missed him but he was confronted by a man only six feet away who fired another bullet that entered his chest, came out through his armpit, and went through his arm. Miss Curnow said: "He was in terrible pain and he went down. Mr Botros tried to tackle the gunman but was pulled off by the person, who was athletic and who raced away across open ground." The attack was an "assassination attempt" that had failed by only a few centimetres.

Mr Marsh was arrested on January 17 this year at Gatwick Airport as he returned from the United States. He told police that he could not recall his movements on the night of the shooting, but then allegedly led them on a "wild goose chase", saying that a key he had was for a locker at King's Cross station that contained the gun used to shoot Mr Warren.

At the home of Marsh's parents, police found a jacket and gloves similar to the ones said to have been worn by the gunman. Experts discovered residue from a firearm discharge on one of the gloves.

Miss Curnow said that Mr Marsh had probably received firearms training in the Marines. In 1981 he had acquired a firearms certificate from Essex police and owned a 9mm Browning and two Smith and Wesson pistols. In 1986 he allowed the certificate to lapse, telling police that he no longer had time to shoot.

One of Mr Marsh's fellow remand prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs had said that boxer had admitted the shooting to him. Peter Harris was said to have told police that Mr Marsh made it clear that he had a consuming dislike for Mr Warren.

The trial continues today.



Tough fight ahead: Lurline Champagne believes her straightforward attitude will win votes

Set to rally the Tory vote

HEAD held high, hands clasped with determination and wearing a bright blue dress, the Conservative party's first Afro-Caribbean prospective parliamentary candidate prepared yesterday for a place in the history books (Ray Clancy writes).

Lurline Champagne, a self-employed nursing consultant, faces a tough fight in Islington North where Labour's Jeremy Corbyn has a majority of almost 10,000. She firmly believes, however, that her plain speaking and straightforward attitude to life will win over voters.

Although she is up at the crack of dawn — like the prime minister she claims to need only five hours sleep — she finds that coping with an onslaught from the press has not been easy. "I was still wearing my curlers when the first member of the press knocked on my door. I had not

thought of my selection as unique until the phone rang endlessly and the cameramen arrived on the doorstep," she said, sitting in the comfortable lounge of her semi-detached house in Hatch End, north London. She lives there with her husband, Clive, and has three grown-up sons.

Ever since she received a standing ovation as lengthy as Margaret Thatcher's at the 1986 Conservative conference she has set her sights on parliament. She told delegates she was proud to be black, British and Conservative.

When she arrived in London in 1957 aged 17 to be told that the only job open to a young, black, well-educated woman was menial factory work, she became determined to prove society wrong.

She immediately secured a job as a punch operator. "I just had to break down the barrier. I was

determined and I suppose it was my personality which convinced them to give me the job," she said.

Clutching her blue toy dog, a lucky mascot named after Norman Tebbit, one of her mentors, she said that only by being a member of mainstream society could any coloured person achieve equal opportunities.

"I am British through and through and so are all the other coloured people, either born or living in this country. Black people have to come out of their ghettos and be part of society rather than hiding themselves away because they think they can only get on within their own narrow-mindedness."

"They are, after all, black English men and women and all this mumbo jumbo about ethnic minorities does not help anyone."

Holiday bookings rise for next year

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

A BIG rise in holiday bookings over the past few days may help the travel industry, Thomson and ILG, Britain's leading tour operators, have reported increases of more than 10 per cent in deposits placed on holidays compared with the same week last year.

Thomson said last night: "Things are looking up for the summer of 1991. It seems that many of the people who did not take a holiday last summer are determined to do so next." Peter Smith, managing director of ILG, said: "Over the past five days there has been an average increase of 10.5 per cent across the board."

The two companies handle most package tours taken in Britain each year. They said that the improvement followed the decision by some smaller operators to raise their prices because of the continued high price of aviation fuel.

Mr Smith said: "People have become extremely aware and price sensitive. As soon as some tour operators increased their prices there was a rush of bookings for companies who have been able to give a guarantee of no surcharges."

The reduction in mortgage rates after Britain joined the exchange-rate mechanism is thought to have contributed to the sudden upturn in the tour operators' fortunes. Thomson said: "At least people know that mortgage rates are not on the way up."

Holiday industry fortunes fell last year in the wake of high interest rates and a widespread disenchantment with crowded airports and poor facilities in some of the most popular holiday resorts. Bookings dropped by 25 per cent compared with the previous year and most tour operators reduced the number of holidays on offer to match the new depressed market.

Then the Gulf confrontation pushed up oil prices and forced airlines to increase their charges to the tour operators. Some managed to beat the rise by buying fuel in advance. Others, however, have been forced to increase their brochure prices with warnings that further rises may come towards the end of the year.

Even Thomson and ILG said that they may have to reprice their holidays after Christmas if problems in the Gulf continued. This has added to the pressure on holidaymakers to book early. The industry is, however, still struggling with a slump in bookings for winter holidays, with around 15 per cent fewer people expected to head for the ski slopes this winter than did last year.

NUM pays damages over letter

By TIM JONES

EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE National Union of Mineworkers yesterday agreed to pay libel damages in excess of £100,000 and costs after conceding that a letter aimed at undermining the creation of the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers was a forgery.

The letter was allegedly written by David Prendergast, now financial secretary of the Nottingham section of the UDM. It suggested that he was prepared to bend the rules of the Nottingham area NUM and adopt and advocate underhand and undemocratic means to secure its independence from the main union.

The letter, widely circulated by the NUM in the Nottingham coalfield in August 1985 and mentioned by the media, suggested also that Mr Prendergast, at that time financial secretary of the NUM Nottingham area, was prepared to collaborate with the then Coal Board at the expense of and against the interest of the NUM membership in his area.

The action by Mr Prendergast was taken against Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, Peter Heathfield, the union's secretary, James Hood, former pit branch secretary and now Labour MP for Clydesdale, and Henry Richardson, secretary of the Nottingham area of the NUM, and the union itself.

Survey shows rise in dog cruelty

By NICHOLAS WATT

CRUELTY to dogs has risen by 10 per cent in the first nine months of this year, according to a survey by Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The survey comes just days before MPs vote on a national dog registration scheme. Gavin Grant, the society's campaigns director, said yesterday that the registration scheme would be the most effective way to stop the cruelty and to prevent people owning dogs for "warped machismo reasons". The scheme would be operated by local authorities, and Mr Grant called for a system with 24-hour cover.

The society's claims were rejected yesterday by the *Dog World* newspaper, whose staff presented a petition opposing a registration scheme to Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for

Brighton. Mr Bowden said that a registration scheme would not work because a DVLC for dogs would have to be created. If irresponsible people did not apply for car licenses there was little hope that they would register their dogs. He said that fines should be increased for people who maltreated dogs.

Pam Blay, a dog breeder and a senior journalist on *Dog World*, said that as a responsible person she did not like to be told she would have to take part in a registration scheme. Mr Grant told her that she represented a minority. Most of the 7½ million dogs in Britain were not pure breeds, and the £15 registration fee would not represent a great loss to people such as her. Mrs Blay said that the answer was for councils to

educate people about the treatment of dogs.

MPs will vote on dog registration when they consider the Lords' amendments to the environmental protection bill. The prime minister opposes the scheme, but Chris Patten, the environment secretary, is understood to be trying to convince her to drop her objections in order to avoid a Conservative revolt.

The environment department denied yesterday that Mr Patten was in favour of registration. Nonetheless, the government will be uneasy about the vote. In spite of a three line whip in the Commons in May, the government managed by a majority of only 12 to oppose an all-party move to include registration in the environmental protection bill.

Police code promises user-friendly bobby on the beat

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S police were urged yesterday to become more user-friendly and to take more account of the public's wishes to halt a decline in confidence in their work.

In a statement of police aims, officers were told to be courteous and compassionate while upholding the law fairly and firmly and with integrity, common sense and sound judgment.

The document, the first of its kind, was endorsed by the chief

constables of the 43 English and Welsh forces at a conference at the Police Training College in Bramshill, Hampshire. Although police chiefs said the national code did not mean to replace forces' own policy aims, observers see the move as further eroding the boundaries between county forces.

Michael Hurst, chief constable of Leicestershire and chairman of the group of senior officers which devised the initiative, said the statement offered a new start for the service, which had over-emphasised enforcement. In a

candid address, he said that chief constables had flunked a basic leadership test by misreading what the public wanted from the police. Nearly all paid lip-service to the concept of community policing, but few displayed any real commitment to the notion, in spite of the clear preference the public had shown for "traditional policing". More attention, for example, should be paid to crime victims.

He said: "We have been spending £5.4 billion a year... and with relatively few exceptions we have

neither identified the community's needs, measured our performance nor tested public satisfaction with the product except in the field of strict enforcement."

Claiming the police were at a crossroads as clearly signposted as the one reached in 1980 after the Toxteth riots in Liverpool, he predicted that forces would slide into a more confrontational style of policing if they did not change their approach.

A strategy document drawn up by the Association of Chief Police Officers says forces should seek

the views of residents and businessmen to determine local policing needs and to help measure the quality of their service. The Home Office might also conduct regular surveys to test public satisfaction.

Senior officers made it clear yesterday that such consultation could strongly influence policing decisions. If the public, for example, wanted greater priority given to litter being cleared up and drunks kept off the streets, as research suggested, resources would go to these areas.

advertisements will be allowed to "play on fear" by alluding to any alleged consequences of not being religious or not subscribing to a particular faith. Any references to the benefits of religion for personal well-being should be restrained. Testimonials and personal case-histories will not be acceptable.

The draft code also says that no advertisement may imply that religion is specifically relevant to any particular group of viewers, such as the elderly, the bereaved or divorced. Religious advertisers will also be banned from aiming commercials specifically at the young or buying advertising time immediately before or after programmes directed at audiences under 18.

Commercials exhorting viewers to change their religious behaviour, or seeking to involve viewers in an act of worship or prayer, will not be allowed.

The IBA has sent the draft code to over 300 religious organisations seeking their written comment before November 30. The draft rules were published after extensive consultation with religious bodies and market research among the public. The IBA said the public was particularly concerned that religious advertising should not be socially divisive or exploit the vulnerable.

Media, page 17

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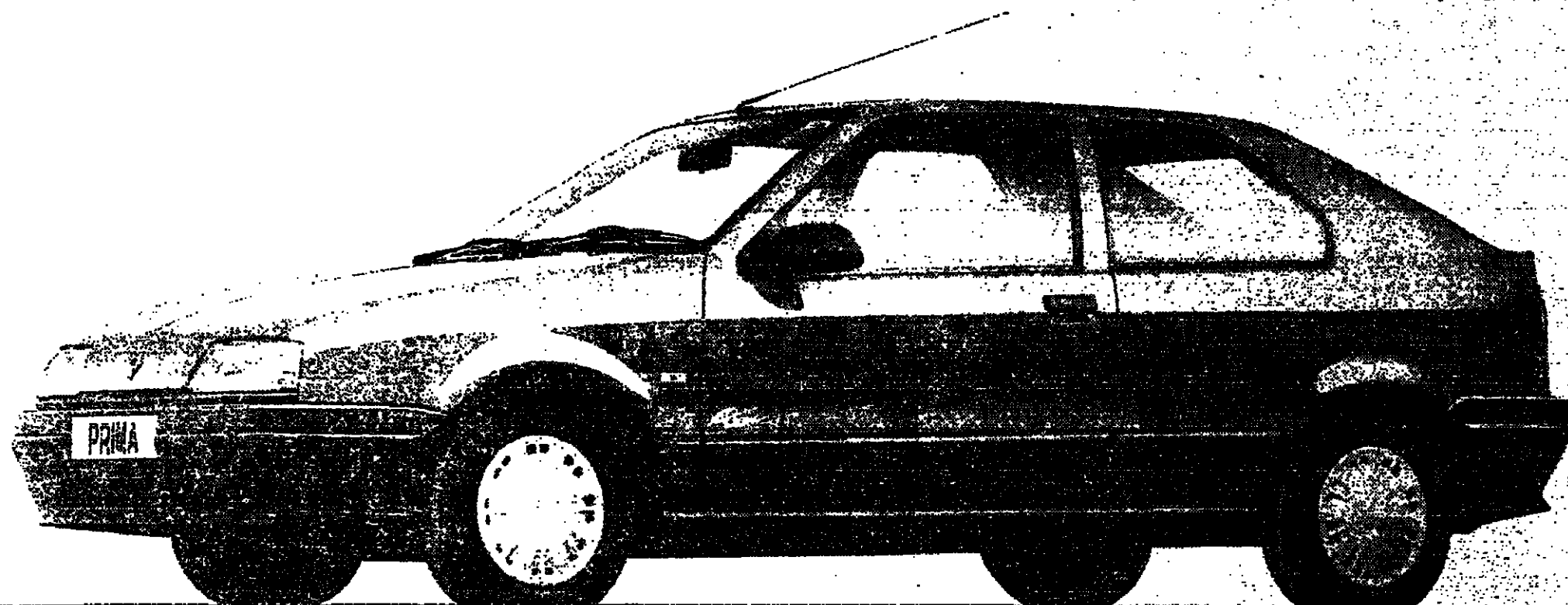
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[†]Renault 19 Prima "on-the-road" prices including free delivery, number plates and 6 months road fund licence in-cluding optional extras, and insurance available at participating Renault dealers, where stocks last, until 31st December 1990. 4-dr £7,995; 5-dr £7,945. Typical finance example: at 0% finance 3-dr (shown) £7,150, minimum deposit £500, 84.250, finance charges 10%, 24 monthly payments of £219.17, total payable £7,150. Finance offers subject to credit status and apply to any new Renault 19 Prima ordered and registered before 31st December 1990. Offers do not include Channel tax or rate of duty. Written quotations available on request. Credit facilities provided by Renault Financial Services Ltd. *On a Renault 19 for 36 months/20,000 miles whichever is sooner. Prices correct at time of going to press. Renault UK Ltd, Weybridge Avenue, London W13 0JZ. RENAULT recommended oil and lubricants.

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MacGregor urges pay penalty for bad teachers

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

BAD teachers should lose their regular pay grade increases and salary rises above the basic rate should be earned under the terms of next April's pay offer, John MacGregor, the education secretary, said yesterday.

He told schools and local education authorities that they should use their new powers to set salaries not only to improve the status of good teachers but to make it clear to the bad ones that their performance would have to improve if their salaries were to be increased.

Mr MacGregor told the Interim Advisory Committee on Teachers' Pay that the

rarely used power to limit salaries should be used more frequently where a teacher's performance was unsatisfactory. In the past about 60 per cent of the 450,000 teachers in England and Wales who do not receive special allowances could expect an annual increase in their first seven years of teaching moving their salaries from £9,000 to £16,000 a year.

The written evidence to the committee, sitting for the last time before the restoration of negotiating rights to the teacher unions, said that the government hoped that local education authorities and governing bodies would use their new powers to increase the salaries of good teachers.

The sting is in the tail: "He [Mr MacGregor] attaches equal importance, however, to the use of pay flexibilities in respect of teachers whose performance is unsatisfactory... For those who have not yet reached the top of the scale there is provision for the withholding of an annual increment."

"The secretary of state believes that those provisions should be used where the performance of the individual teacher clearly warrants it."

The National Union of Teachers said: "This ought to be part of school management and a way of dealing with teachers who are judged to be ineffective. The union's role would be to ensure the proper procedures would apply to any teacher against whom there is a complaint."

Mr MacGregor also asked the pay committee, chaired by Lord Chilver, to construct a pay scheme that would ease the continuing and worsening teacher shortages in some subjects and some areas, notably in London and the South-East.

The committee was told that recruitment was still too low in several subjects, particularly physics where there had been a 17.5 per cent drop in 1989 over the previous year. "Recruitment in physics as well as in maths and craft design and technology is likely to be lower again this year... These shortfalls are of particular concern."

Lockerbie contempt is alleged

Trevor Grove, the editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, and Toby Helm, a journalist, have been ordered to appear before Sheriff Principal John Mowat, presiding over the Lockerbie enquiry, on Friday to answer an alleged contempt of court (Kerry Gill writes).

The charge relates to an article by Mr Helm in the newspaper last Sunday headlined "Lockerbie whitewash warning". Brian Gill, QC, for the relatives of the British victims of the disaster, said the article alleged that lawyers for the bereaved were being paid by the transport department to speed up the enquiry.

The Sheriff Principal said that there appeared to be a prima facie contempt of court contained in Mr Helm's article and said he and his editor must appear before the enquiry. Colin McEachran, QC, for the transport department, said the article had implied that the department was party to a cover-up. The department had agreed to pay the fees without conditions.

Trainer bailed

The racehorse trainer Dermot Browne was granted bail on charges of obtaining by deception cash totalling £4,740 and £5,018 and of driving while banned and without insurance. Robin Arnitt, Doncaster stipendiary magistrate, agreed yesterday to bail Browne, a former jockey aged 28, on five conditions, including payment of a surety of £20,000.

Charities 'hit'

Charities which take short leases on empty shops to sell Christmas cards and goods are having difficulty finding premises this year because of the new business rate, it was claimed yesterday. The Charity Christmas Card Council, which represents 98 organisations, said: "Regulations brought in with the new business rate penalise a landlord who wishes to assist a charity in this way."

Award appeal

Three Scottish judges yesterday permitted News Scotland, publisher of *The Sun*, to appeal against a jury's award of £50,000 damages to Lilian Winter, aged 41, a prison officer, for defamation in a *Sun* story alleging misconduct at Glenochil prison. Lord Hope, the Lord President, and Lord Allanbridge and Lord Mayfield, sitting in the Court of Session, signed legal papers for the appeal, due next year.

Soviet flag intrigue overshadows chess

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

GAME five in the New York World Chess Championship will be remembered as a protest against the slow pace of change in the Soviet Union towards democracy and a market economy.

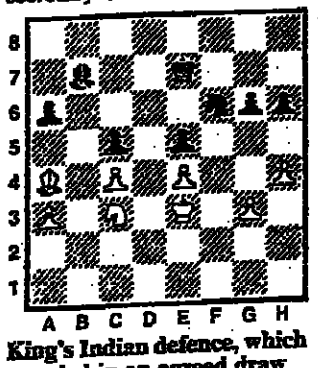
Kasparov had chosen to play under the flag of the Russian Republic rather than the hammer and sickle. Karpov, as perhaps befits a player twice decorated by Brezhnev, continued to play under the Soviet flag.

However, after a protest by Nikolai Krogius, the head of Karpov's delegation in New York, and former general secretary of the Soviet Chess

Federation, the match appeals committee decided to abolish flags on stage in an apparent attempt to placate both parties. In future, only the players' names, larger than before, will appear on the stage.

Compared with this off-board intrigue, game five was an anti-climax. Karpov might have wished to press fiercely for an advantage with the white pieces. Instead, he cleared the pieces from the board by repeated exchanges in the d file he had opened on move nine until, by move 36, there was nothing left for which to play.

Karpov (white) Kasparov (black)			
1. d4	Nf6	19. Bf1	h6
2. c4	g5	20. g3	h5
3. Nc3	g4	21. Kg2	h4
4. e4	g3	22. Rxd1	Rxd1
5. Nf3	O-O	23. Rxd2	Rxd2
6. Rxd1	g2	24. Rd1	Rd1
7. Nd5	h4	25. Rxd1	h3
8. O-O	h3	26. h4	c5
9. dxe5	h2	27. h5	h2
10. Qxd8	Rxd8	28. h6	h2
11. Nd1	Nf6	29. h7	h2
12. b3	Bb8	30. h8	h2
13. Ne2	b5	31. Kf3	h2
14. a3	Nc5	32. h4	h2
15. b4	Nd5	33. h5	h2
16. Nc3	Nd5	34. h6	h2
17. d3	Nd5	35. h7	h2
18. Bc2	Rd8		Draw agreed



Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, viewing an exhibition of Aids posters from around the world with James Miller, its curator. She says that new advertisements leave no doubt about the risks of heterosexual infection

New campaign as female Aids figure soars

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of women sexually infected with the Aids virus has almost quadrupled in Britain in the past three years, prompting a new government campaign aimed at heterosexuals this winter.

Some of the HIV-positive women have agreed to take part in television commercials in the campaign. Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, yesterday described their personal testimonies as "shattering".

The number of women known to be infected, 1,182, has overtaken the 1987 total of 1,166 full-blown Aids cases among homosexual men, haemophiliacs, drug abusers and all other categories.

At the end of 1987, 147 women were known to have contracted HIV sexually, compared with 567 at the end of last month. The figure for women infected by injecting illicit drugs has risen from 168 to 615 in the same time. About 100 women in Britain have died from Aids since 1983.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mrs Bottomley said that she would be emphasising the risks at conferences and meetings with women's organisations in the next few months. "I have seen the

personal testimonies of some of the women who caught HIV through sexual intercourse and they are shattering," she said. "They leave no doubt about the real hazards of heterosexual infection."

● Britain's first custom-built hospice for Aids sufferers will begin taking admissions from the end of January, with all of its 20 beds expected to be occupied by the middle of next year (Kerry Gill writes).

The hospice, in Edinburgh, where HIV infection is at epidemic levels, will deal with up to 400 patients a year. Yesterday, as an appeal was launched to help to meet the £900,000-a-year running costs of the charity-run hospice, Milestone House, it emerged that the hospice could justify 50 beds within four years.

● Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, sought yesterday to damp down speculation that an out-of-court settlement is imminent to compensate 1,200 haemophiliacs infected with the Aids virus from contaminated blood products. Speaking in Birmingham, he dismissed reports that the government was prepared to make up to £90 million more available to victims and their families.



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Cost of the nation's children haunts the parties and politicians

Child benefit has a long history, with disagreements dogging much of it. Jill Sherman considers how politicians have grappled with the issues behind a system costing the nation £4.5 billion a year

THE first incentives for women to bear children were introduced in Europe in the first century before Christ by the Emperor Augustus to ensure a good supply of young men to fight his battles and run his empire. William Pitt the Younger followed suit in Britain during the Napoleonic Wars when child allowances were incorporated into the income tax system.

Since then, the question of whether to opt for a universal benefit, which goes to many who do not need it; tax allowances, which favour the rich; or means-tested benefits, which compound the poverty trap, has dogged successive governments. The decision has become even more tortuous in the past decade since it became embroiled with the argument over whether mothers should be encouraged to stay at home or go out to work.

Eleanor Rathbone, a child allowance campaigner in the 1940s, was one of the first to argue that children were not a private luxury but an asset to the community. Because parents incurred greater costs than childless couples, they should be subsidised, she argued. In 1945, the wartime coalition government agreed to supplement child tax allowances with a family allowance paid through the social security system. It went to every second child and subsequent siblings.

The burden of this family allowance system grew heavy by the late Sixties and early Seventies. Conservatives first attempted to reform the child allowance system in the early Seventies, but a green paper on amalgamating tax allowances and benefits ran into the sands. Eventually, the 1974 Labour government phased in child benefit between 1977 and 1979. The idea behind the universal benefit was to take the money out of the breadwinner's wallet and hand it directly to the mother. The proposal caused an uproar as workers realised they would lose income, and the Child Poverty Action Group denounced it as "robbery". However, anti-poverty groups soon saw it as a corner-

stone that protected lone parents and poor families.

Tax allowances of £300 a year for each child under the age of 11, which went to the father, were converted in the first stage to a £1-a-week cash benefit paid to mothers. Child tax allowances were reduced at the same time by the equivalent of 70p a week.

It was Barbara Castle, the then Labour social services secretary, who insisted, against the lobbying of young Tories such as Kenneth Clarke, that child benefit should not be automatically uprated with inflation. This has resulted in child benefit being caught in a political row in the public expenditure round each autumn.

Child benefit, an increasingly expensive millstone, was looked at once more by the Conservatives in the 1986 social security reforms. Norman Fowler, then social services secretary, concluded that it should remain untouched. He argued that if it were replaced by means testing, the poverty trap would be exacerbated, creating a disincentive for the breadwinner. However, he did introduce two benefits to help poorer families. Family Income Supplement was replaced by the more generous Family Credit for working families and Income Support for the jobless.

His successor, John Moore, froze child benefit in 1987, arguing that money saved could be concentrated on poorer families through Family Credit. The poverty lobby retorted that many poor do not take up means-tested benefits. In any case, extra money to the poor should not be given from money taken from children in other families, the Save Child Benefit group said.

Child benefit was frozen at £7.25 for three successive years, while the Tory party argued about whether it should be raised, restructured or abolished. John Moore's argument that families on his income should not be entitled to benefit did not go down well among Tory women who argued that for many the purse would now be empty. This year,

there has been pressure from Tory MPs to woo voters by raising child benefit. Yet the radical right still claims that children should be seen as an optional consumer good.

Child benefit has a 98 per cent take-up, but a quarter of the £4.5 billion earmarked for it goes to families with yearly incomes over £20,000. To uprate it in line with inflation this year would cost £400 million, taking it to just over £8.

David Willetts, of the Centre for Policy Studies, proposes the compromise of uprating benefit for under-fives but freezing it for older children. He argues that the benefit should remain universal because means tests increase the poverty trap. Child benefit favours neither the rich, nor the poor, and is neutral on whether mothers go to work, he says.

At the heart of the debate is the fear of welfare dependency on the one hand and under-provision for the most needy children on the other. A few million more from the Treasury will not end that.

Leading article, page 13
New deal for first child, page 1

Mothers cling to a financial lifeline

By JANE BIDDER

PAT Spencer from Brentford, a mother of three under-fours, is urgently waiting her next child benefit allowance, due in a week. Two years ago, she would have used the money to buy treats, Christmas presents and birthday gifts. Now it is being used for basic necessities: two pairs of woolly tights for two-year-old Chloé and a dressing gown for Thomas, nearly four.

The £87 paid into a separate bank account each month is even more necessary because Mrs Spencer's husband has recently been made redundant from his computer sales job. Mrs Spencer, a former beauty therapist aged 33, admits that she and her family do

not seem like an obvious poverty case, but she sees the allowance as a lifeline at a time of high mortgage rates and rising living costs. She is appalled by the suggestion that it might be frozen again and does not care much for the idea that benefit should be given only for children under five. "Children over five get more expensive than little ones: apart from shoes, clothes for toddlers cost less whereas the over-fives need winter coats and school uniforms."

Determining whether families like the Spencers need the allowance is difficult. Save Child Benefit, a campaigning organisation, argues that it should be seen as a recognition that families need extra help because children cost

money. Sally Hawkins, co-ordinator of the campaign, argues: "Since 1979, child benefit has been cut in real terms by 18 per cent while tax allowances to married couples have increased by 23 per cent. No one argues that a married couple's tax allowance should be based on whether someone needs it: it goes to the Duke of Westminster just as it does to his milkman."

Mary Talbot, a farmer's wife and mother of three from Buckinghamshire, puts her child benefit towards the family's supermarket bill of about £50 or £60 a week. "We need it for basics like food," she said. "In the past, I might have spent it on toys and luxury items for the children, but now it's a vital part of the

household budget. In a sense, I can see why there's an argument for the money to go to under-fives: their mothers are less likely to be working so might need it more. Then again, older children need more clothes and should be able to enjoy activities outside school, which cost money."

Christine Gowdridge, a charity co-ordinator, gives her child benefit to her daughter Anna, aged 15, as a clothes allowance. "It saves a lot of fights over money and she's learned how to manage her finances better as well as dressing reasonably well. In the past, my child benefit was a cushion against disaster. It's also of symbolic value in that the payment shows children are welcome in society."

How other nations provide for families

THE system of child benefits in the United States, known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children, was established in the Great Depression to provide temporary relief for indigent widows (James Bone writes). The main beneficiaries are single mothers, many in their teens, who can earn more from benefits than by working. There are four million welfare parents, 90 per cent of whom are mothers without a husband in the home.

The 1988 family support act required states to establish "work-readiness" programmes and allowed them to demand that welfare mothers with children over three (or, in some cases, just one) participate as long as the state provided day care.

Child benefit is comparatively generous in France. Every family with two or more children may receive the payments (properly resident foreigners included) without a means test (Philip Jacobson writes).

Monthly benefits are: two children, 599F (about £60); three children £130; four children £217; and five or more £296. There are also special allowances of 169F (about £17) a month for children over 10 and £30 a month for those over 15.

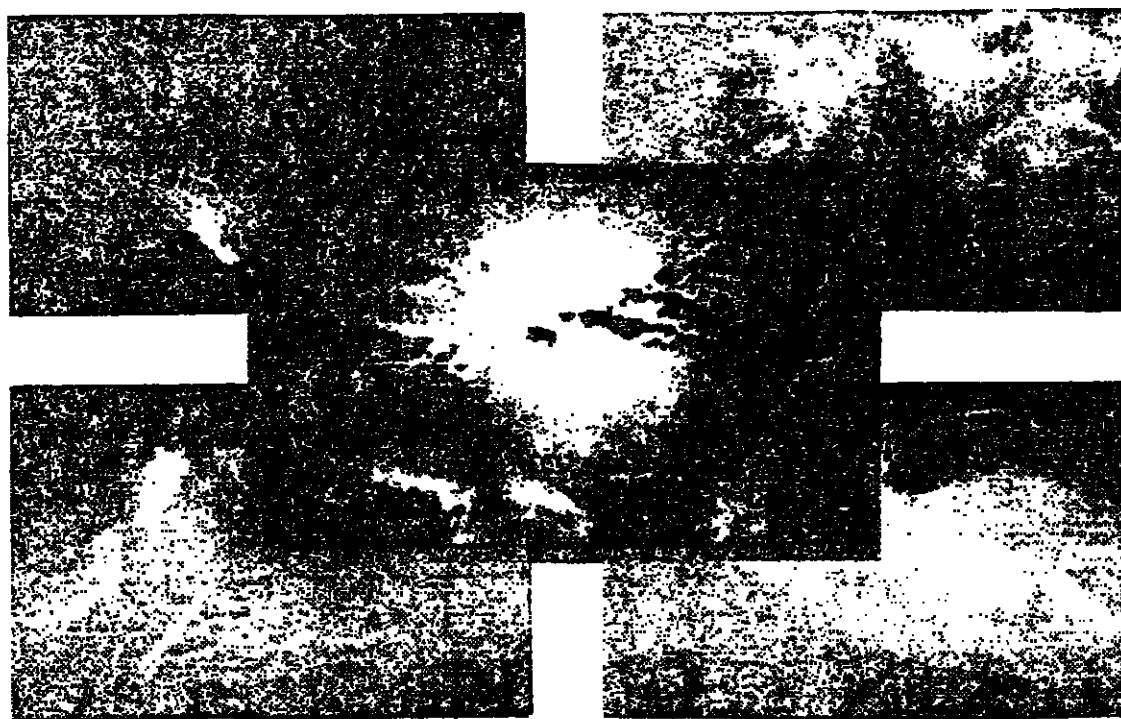
Allowances are generally payable to any family for the entire period of their child's education. Seventeen-year-olds not earning a wage still qualify, while those in recognised apprenticeships, full-time educational studies, and the disabled, are eligible up to the age of 20.

A streamlined cradle-to-grave welfare system in Denmark, in spite of public sector cuts at a time of economic austerity, provides well for the many unmarried mothers with children (Christopher Follett writes). In a country of five million people with only 26,000 births a year, 45 per cent of children are born outside wedlock.

There is an annual allowance of around 6,000 kroner (£530) for every child irrespective of the parents' marital status. In addition, about £700 in benefits each year is available to each illegitimate child or off-spring of broken marriages. There is also a compulsory means-tested, state-guaranteed private contribution to the mother from the biological father of at least another £700 a year.



Months to feed: Pat Spencer, with son Joseph and daughter Chloé, uses her benefit for necessities



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Pay rise sacrifices needed 'if jobs are not to be lost'

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

INFLATION will fall sharply next year, John Major told the Commons yesterday when he opened the debate on Britain's entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

The chancellor gave a warning that sacrifices would have to be made on wage increases if companies were to remain competitive.

Mr Major said that the headline inflation figure might be pushed higher by the rise in oil prices during the past few months.

"But," he added, "I now have no doubt that we shall see inflation falling substantially throughout next year. It will do so particularly quickly from next April for two reasons."

"The underlying rate will improve and some of the unusual adverse factors which have artificially boosted the headline rate will drop out next year."

"Our inflation performance will improve therefore both in

absolute terms and, just as important for entry into the mechanism, relative to that of our European competitors."

He would make a detailed prediction in the autumn statement.

He described the euphoria with which some people had greeted the news as mistaken. The argument that entry had short-term advantages and long-term cost was wholly misleading and a complete misunderstanding of the ERM.

In the short term, membership will require tough action to ensure we achieve low inflation thereafter. The rewards are long term with that very low rate of inflation. That does mean making no further reductions in interest rates until it is prudent to do so.

For business, staying competitive meant relating wage rises to the realistic and justifiable, and leadership needed to come from the top.

He said: "I share the view that sacrifices which may need to be made on wages must apply to those at the top of industry as well as those elsewhere. The consequences of people not obeying that necessary discipline will be lost jobs."

There could be no more negotiating around the benchmark of the retail price index as though that represented the minimum increase it was reasonable to expect.

He said he believed that the DM2.95 exchange rate was sustainable. There was no reason why British companies should not compete successfully at present exchange rates. In the medium term they would compete more successfully with lower inflation.

Entry, he said, was part of Britain's commitment to stage one of economic and monetary union and the single market, but "it is no sense commits us to the Delors approach to stage two and stage three."

"I can assure the House that there has been no shift, no weakening in our opposition to the imposition of a single currency and a single monetary authority. We remain opposed to this and I believe our opposition has the overwhelming support of the House."

Neil Kinnock concentrated his early attack on Margaret Thatcher for not speaking in the debate.

"The prime minister has chosen this occasion of all

occasions to become untypically reticent, to embrace a previously undisclosed shyness, to become a sort of crypto-Trappist."

Hardly anyone had believed Mr Major's smooth and soothing explanation of the timing of the decision. Entry had been nothing more nor less than the price paid for the one percentage point cut in interest rates that Mrs Thatcher needed to take to her party conference.

Labour had been making the case for entry because of the basic attractiveness of the ERM, that it gave a necessary stability to the British economy in which they could secure the advance of productivity and competitiveness. That was why they had welcomed entry.

The problem was that that stability was in jeopardy if the government's commitment and the prime minister's sincerity were not even evidenced by her willingness to speak.

The government had not learnt from the mistakes of the past 11 years and the only response it ever made to a mistake was to repeat it and call it being resolute.

Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said that it was with great pleasure that he was able to endorse wholeheartedly the fact that the government had now entered the ERM.

"As for the reasons for doing so, I agree entirely with what the chancellor said today," he added. "I have to say, however, that these reasons, that these advantages, have been valid for years. They are not reasons and advantages which have only suddenly appeared relatively recently."

Entering the ERM meant that we were now, as some might put it, committed to shadowing the mark at a rate not far from DM3 to the pound.

In response to laughter and shouts from Opposition MPs, he said when we were, as it were, living in sin with the ERM — the period from March 1987 to March 1988 — inflation fell from 4.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent. To maintain that that was a cause of inflation was difficult to sustain. Were it so, it would be difficult to say why they were accepting the arrangement now.



Safe arrival: David Bellotti, victor of Eastbourne, being greeted at the Commons yesterday by Paddy Ashdown

Teachers need big pay increase, MPs say

JOHN MacGregor, the education secretary, came under pressure at question time from MPs who urged a big pay increase for teachers next year. He said that the interim advisory committee, which makes pay and conditions recommendations, had begun its work; he would respond at the appropriate time.

Cyril Townsend, Tory MP for Bexleyheath, said that it was shameful that local education authorities had to recruit teachers from abroad. He said

that teachers must have a big pay increase if their recruitment and community standing was to be looked after.

Mr MacGregor replied that only a handful of schools had teacher vacancies this year and the number recruited from overseas was small.

Teachers, he said, had seen an average pay increase of 50 per cent since 1986 and it was well up in real terms over the past 10 years.

Jack Suraw, shadow education spokes-

man, accused the government of making untrue claims about rises for teachers over the past four years. He said that teachers' pay had been cut in real terms in each of the past three years and called for an assurance that the government would fund any increase recommended by the committee.

Mr MacGregor said that there was a much greater flexibility in the salary structure now and many teachers had had big rises in the past few years.

Thatcher rules out A-level reforms

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MARGARET Thatcher yesterday scuppered hopes of reform of the A-level examination.

She poured cold water on plans from the Schools Examination and Assessment Council for the university entrance hurdle to be changed to include much greater room for course work and tests of "core skills" such as communication and personal development. The plans have been criticised by public school headmasters.

Mrs Thatcher told Michael Lord, Tory MP for Suffolk Central, that she knew of no plans to "undermine the most excellent A-level examination". She said that it ensured at degree level one of the highest rates of achievement anywhere.

Mr Lord said that many people believed that A-levels were the only true benchmark of academic achievement. He asked the prime minister to assure the Commons that there were no plans to alter or undermine the examination.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, is expected to announce the government's response to examination council's proposals early next year. They are intended to improve the sixth-form staying-on rate of a quarter by bringing A-levels more into line with the GCSE, allowing course work to make up a fifth of the final marks, possibly rising to four-fifths.

Vivian Anthony, secretary of the Headmasters' Conference, said this week: "The proposals will reduce the objectivity and integrity of the assessment."

More stay on at school

More children are staying on at school or going in to further education.

Tim Eggar, an education minister, said in a Commons written reply.

He said that the government had achieved a big increase in the numbers. In 1989-90, about 35 per cent of 16-year-olds were attending school compared with 28 per cent in 1979-80. In addition, 20 per cent were in full-time education in further education colleges compared with 14 per cent in 1979-80.

He added: "Our examination reforms and the Education Reform Act will raise standards."

Discounts for houses

Tenants buying their houses at Basildon in the first English experimental rent-to-mortgage scheme will buy for an initial payment of at least the amount they could borrow on a mortgage where repayments were equal to their rent.

That initial payment will attract discount in accordance with present right-to-buy rules and tenants paying half the right-to-buy price will get half discount. Michael Spicer, housing minister, said in a written reply.

14,500 apply for loans

About 14,500 students have applied so far for loans under the new student loans scheme, Alan Howarth, a junior education minister, said during Commons questions.

He brushed aside claims from Opposition MPs that the scheme was a failure because so few people had applied, saying that the academic year was only two weeks old.

Appeals on poll tax

About 4,230 community charge appeals have been lodged so far this year with valuation and community charge tribunals, compared with 178,078 appeals against all types of rating proposals in 1989. The number of rating appeals in each of the previous four years varied between 150,000 and 182,332.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Debate on EC aid to Eastern Europe. Lords (2.30): Courts and Legal Services bill. Commons amendments.

Bradford North Minute's silence opens campaign

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Islamic Party of Britain opened its campaign in the Bradford North by-election yesterday with a minute's silence and a promise to offer commonsense solutions for the country's problems.

The silence was for all the casualties of American and British power politics and others suffering in the Middle East while defending Islam's holiest shrine.

Commonsense solutions included the ending of interest charges for borrowing and the introduction of three currencies issued by town halls, national government and international organisations.

"I always believe in common sense as a principle", David Musa Pidcock, the party's leader and candidate in the forthcoming by-election, said.

Mr Pidcock's party, which was founded a year ago, hopes to attract votes from among the constituency's 7,500 Muslim voters as part of a longer-term attempt to improve what it sees as Islam's negative image in the United Kingdom.

If successful, the party could rob Labour of some of its traditional support in the constituency where it had a majority of only 1,633 majority at the last general election. Mr Pidcock, born in Shef-

field and a Roman Catholic until he converted to Islam 15 years ago, denounced the banking system as a fraud and is to base his campaign for the poll on a plan to replace government borrowing by the issuing of interest-free government bonds.

Labour, although it is confident that there will be no serious haemorrhage of its support among the Muslim community, is offering reassurance on several topics causing concern among the wider Asian communities.

The party's candidate, Terry Rooney, made sympathetic noises yesterday on the Salman Rushdie affair. Mr Rooney said that he would regret it if *The Satanic Verses* were published as a paperback. He said that he thought the blasphemy laws were out of date and that it would be difficult to draft substitute legislation.

Later, at a meeting in the local council offices, the party's deputy leader, Roy Hasterley, held talks with leading figures from the Asian community, reassuring them that the party was listening and aware of their concerns. General election: P. Wall (Lab), 21,009; G. Lawler (C), 19,376; A. Berkeley (SDP/AI), 8,656. Lab maj: 1,633.

APPRECIATION

Buchan, folk-singing socialist

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE death at 67 of Norman Buchan removes from the Commons an uncompromising Scots left-winger. It removes too one of the House's genuine characters.

Diminutive and intense, he had been a front bench spokesman on Scottish affairs before resigning as Harold Wilson's minister of state for agriculture in 1974 over Labour's softening policy on the common market.

Later, he provoked Neil Kinnock into dismissing him as an arse spokesman in 1985 because he would not accept the leadership line that broadcasting should remain a Home Office responsibility

rather than pass to a broader arts ministry as the Labour conference had voted consistently that it should.

Never one to mince words, Mr Buchan explained his abstention in the deputy leadership contest between Tony Benn and Denis Healey by saying "my brain turned against Benn, but my stomach turned against Healey" and he continued to chide and chivy the Labour party against abandoning socialism from a series of fringe meeting platforms at party conferences.

A former Communist who left the party over Hungary in 1956, a convinced nuclear unilateralist and a supporter

of Scottish devolution, Mr Buchan was a combative party warrior. But he could also be one of the most entertaining speakers in the Commons as when, in 1988, he revealed his knowledge of folk songs, on which he was an expert, during the Commons proceedings on the Copyright bill.

His contribution on that occasion involved a long anecdote about the Soviet secret police and a spirited rendition of items from various songs, including the wartime favourite about a latrine attendant: "I'm the man with the plan for the pan which everyone uses".

Obituary, page 14

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Iraqi families suffer growing hardship from UN sanctions

From NICHOLAS BRESTON IN BAGHDAD

SAMI Mehdi gave an exasperated shrug as he filled up his dilapidated taxi yesterday on the first day of fuel rationing in Iraq. "We have a new saying in Baghdad," he said. "Yesterday was better than today, but today will be better than tomorrow."

The simple proverb underlines the growing hardship among Iraqis who, after nearly two months of the UN economic boycott, are beginning for the first time to endure the hardship of their international isolation. Like most taxi drivers in Baghdad, Mr Mehdi said he would normally get through his allowance of 13 gallons of petrol for the week in one day's work.

He predicted that the rationing would hit his family hard at a time when the prices of consumer goods are soaring, but wages are remaining

static. Although there are still abundant supplies of food in the Baghdad markets, mostly looted goods from Kuwait and locally supplied fresh produce, the prices are becoming increasingly beyond the reach of the average Iraqi on a salary of 120 dinars a month (£220 at the official exchange rate, but worth only about £20 on the black market).

Since the invasion the price of locally produced cigarettes has risen by 1,000 per cent, potatoes by 800 per cent, and rationing has been introduced for basic items like bread, rice, sugar and cooking oil.

For the first time senior Iraqi officials are admitting that the sanctions are beginning to take their toll on the economy, but insist that the hardships imposed on the Iraqi people from outside will only serve to strengthen their

loyalty to President Saddam Hussein, much as it did during the eight-year war with Iran. "Yes, sanctions are biting here, but it does not mean that we will kneel down and beg for mercy," said one Iraqi official this week.

Privately, however, several Iraqis insisted that there is growing public resentment that once again the Iraqi people are having to suffer the consequences of President Saddam's regional ambitions.

"If this is what happens to us when we invade Kuwait, I hate to think what will happen when he (President Saddam) decides to attack Israel," said one indignant motorist queuing up on Monday night at a petrol station to beat the ration deadline in a country with the second largest oil reserves in the world.

Although the consumer problems are the most visible, the petrol rationing is symptomatic of the far more serious damage that the embargo is doing to the industrial sector.

The shortage of petrol is due largely to the limited supplies of additives needed for refining crude oil and the lack of spare parts essential for keeping the country's refineries going.

Western diplomats monitoring the effects of the embargo believe that the industrial sector has been the hardest hit because of the shortage of manpower and the lack of spare parts for routine maintenance work.

"Iraq relied heavily on foreign skilled and semi-skilled labour to keep the country running," said one diplomat. "Now most western workers are either being held hostage or have left. The semi-skilled Asian and Arab guest workers have also left by the thousand, or are planning to leave soon and many of the trained Iraqis have been drafted into the military."

Observers predict that whole sectors could start closing down by January if the sanctions remain in effect and that serious food shortages could appear in about eight months time.

It is predicted that if the current stalemate in the Gulf continues Iraq will rapidly be reduced to a basic subsistence economy. Although there is clear evidence of some goods being smuggled into the country from Jordan, Iran and Turkey, sanctions busting is still on a relatively small scale and falls far short of the needs of the entire population.

The country will also at some point run out of the cash needed to pay for imports because its assets abroad are frozen and it is no longer earning foreign currency from its oil exports. Unfortunately for the western forces now assembled in Saudi Arabia, the only sector which has proved resilient to sanctions is the military which has enough spare parts to keep its aircraft and vehicles running for at least a year and sufficient stocks of ammunition to fight a prolonged war over several months.

Leading article, page 13



United stand: Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, with Margaret Thatcher in Downing Street after agreeing that Iraq must leave his country

Palestinians seek revenge for Jerusalem killings

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ARAB knife attacks on Israelis in revenge for the shootings on Temple Mount just over two weeks ago continued yesterday for the third day, despite strict security, as two women soldiers were attacked on the road between Heifa and Nazareth and two Israeli men were assaulted by Arabs from Gaza in Ashkelon, south of Tel Aviv.

Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said the security forces were doing all within their power to protect Israeli citizens, but predicted that the attacks would continue and might increase. Recent leaflets issued by the underground leadership of the *intifada*, or Palestinian uprising, have urged Arabs to attack Israelis with knives or other weapons to avenge the Temple Mount deaths.

On Sunday, three Israelis were stabbed to death in a Jewish district of Jerusalem. One of them was a policeman who fired at his attacker's leg rather than "shoot to kill" even though bystanders had urged him to kill the assailant. Witnesses quoted the policeman as saying: "I do not want to harm him. The policeman was then stabbed to death

when he closed with the Arab. The incident has given rise to calls for a review of the circumstances under which the security forces can "shoot to kill". But Mr Arens said standing orders on opening fire were already clear.

He added: "We are prepared for further attacks. We know Saddam Hussein's supporters and terrorist organisations want to prove that the *intifada* is alive and well and making progress. They fear the *intifada* might be waning." He told Israeli radio that the security forces would raise their level of alertness.

In yesterday's incident, two women soldiers were wounded — one seriously — while standing by the roadside waiting for lifts. Witnesses said several Arab men jumped from a car registered in the occupied territories and assaulted the women. One of the Arabs was caught and beaten by passers-by.

In the second incident yesterday two Israeli factory owners in the industrial zone of Ashkelon were struck on the head with heavy hammers by Arab workers from Gaza. The Arabs were arrested and were said by police to have admitted carrying out the assaults "for Palestinian nationalist motives".

One hundred and twenty thousand Palestinians normally commute to work in Israeli shops and factories every day but many have been kept out this week by roadblocks set up to screen out "troublemakers".

In Jerusalem, the mayor, Teddy Kolek, said the Arab assaults on Israelis were the result of frustration over the lack of progress in the Middle East peace process.

Ronnie Milo, the Israeli minister of police, was among those who said the policeman who died on Sunday should have shot to kill. He quoted the Talmud, the Jewish book of laws, as saying: "He who rises up to kill you, rise up earlier and kill him first."

The Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas said Sunday's killings were "only the beginning". Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, retorted: "It is for them (Arab attackers) to know that he who commits terrorist acts against us will be punished immediately."

Letters, page 13
Amos Oz, page 18

Arab leaders pave way for peace moves

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

AMID a welter of confusing signals, there were further indications yesterday of an all-Arab initiative beginning to take shape in renewed efforts to bring a peaceful end to the Gulf confrontation.

Senior Arab officials said that various moves, some linked and others unconnected, appeared designed to pave the way for an eventual scenario in which fundamental differences about the timing of any fresh negotiations over disputed areas of Kuwait, and other Middle East issues, could be overcome.

Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi defence minister, claimed that conciliatory remarks made by him at the weekend had been misinterpreted. However, statements by King Fahd of Saudi Arabia 24 hours later continued the newly softened tone from Riyadh, while not altering the basic Saudi position that Iraq must withdraw fully and unconditionally from Kuwait.

The king was quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency as urging President Saddam Hussein to withdraw from Kuwait and assuring him that he would not lose face if he did. "I do not see that if a blunder were committed, that we correct the mistake with another mistake," the king said on Monday. "The correct reply is to remedy the mistake."

Western observers were quick to note the difference in tone from the hawkish Saudi remarks in the early days of the confrontation. They said there was a growing distinction between Arab public statements from all except members of the deposed Kuwaiti government and those from certain Western leaders such as President Bush and Mrs Thatcher about ways of resolving the conflict.

The Iraqis were quick to overlook any "misinterpretation" and praised the Saudi defence minister's remarks as originally reported, claiming they were "a hopeful sign".

Mohamed al-Mashat, Iraq's ambassador to the United States, said in a television interview that "this speaks of readiness to negotiate which was always the case with us", but appeared once again to rule out any unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait as a prelude to negotiations.

In what was seen in diplomatic circles as a related development, Cairo's leading state-owned newspaper, *Al-Ahram*, yesterday highlighted a report that a special envoy of President Chadi of Libya would arrive in Cairo "within the next 48 hours" for talks with President Mubarak. The envoy was named as Sayed Ahmed Ghazali, the Algerian foreign minister, who has played an important role in drawing up a new Gulf peace plan put together by the members of the Arab Maghreb Union, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

In a recent interview Mr Ghazali said that the plan could be used as the basis for a settlement of the confrontation, but denied that any mediation had yet taken place.

"Arab governments are not split about the Gulf crisis," Mr Ghazali told the Saudi daily *Ashraq al-Aswat*. They differed only on how to bring about any solution. A resort to force would result in "a catastrophe for the Arab world".

A diplomat recently in Saudi Arabia said that the change of tone from the Saudi leadership could be partly explained by fears that its own oil production facilities could suffer severely in any shooting war with Iraq, which is increasingly being seen as unlikely to result in a quick victory.

The *New York Times* reported from Riyadh on Monday: "In interviews over the last three weeks, American, Saudi and European military and political officials have pointed to the growing realisation that, if war comes, it's human, economic and political costs are likely to be high."

One Iranian analyst said yesterday: "Saddam needs some type of face-saving mission and he will pull out. He wants a guarantee that, if he pulls his troops back, Kuwait will remain a no-man's land and not be immediately filled up with hostile troops."

Some diplomats believe that Riyadh might give this guarantee even if Iraq withdrew only to a new border it has drawn, including two islands at the head of the Gulf, parts of Kuwait's Rumaila oil field, and a ridge commanding the northern frontier.

Japanese troops bill boycotted

From JOE JOSEPH IN TOKYO

BAHRAIN apparently would be Japan's front line if Japanese troops were sent to the Middle East to help US-led forces in the Gulf.

But their dispatch to the Gulf became less likely yesterday after opposition parties boycotted debate in parliament on the bill to send troops abroad again after 45 years. The chances of the law being passed this year, or in its present form, now seem slim.

A newspaper poll yesterday confirmed that the majority of Japanese are against sending troops abroad, while reports in Japanese newspapers said that Michael Armacost, the American ambassador to Tokyo, had told a senior Japanese official that he hoped the bill would be passed.

The *Asahi* newspaper yesterday quoted a government source as saying if troops were sent to help in the Middle East they would "evade danger zones by not going beyond Bahrain."

Thatcher stands by star wars project

By ANDREW MCEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher still supports the strategic defence initiative (star wars) even if the US Congress would prefer to give it a quiet burial. Her continuing interest in the programme was reaffirmed yesterday by Henry Cooper, its director, who called at Downing Street on Monday to brief her on his funding problems.

"She is one of our strongest supporters," Mr Cooper said in an interview admitting that skepticism from congress and elsewhere was now a far greater challenge than the technical problems of placing miniature rockets in space to intercept intercontinental ballistic missiles.

One might question whether his job exists, given the unlikelihood of such missiles being used and the size of the US budget deficit. Mr Cooper, however, sounded confident. "It is a very complicated and challenging job. I would not describe it as a non-job. I gave up a much more profitable job to do this."

Mr Cooper defends "Brilliant Pebbles", the latest refinement of SDI, as a form of insurance.

Whitehall sources confirmed that the Prime Minister had always been a supporter of SDI research and felt that the West should be ahead in technology. She visited an SDI research establishment in Colorado in August.

Superman comes down to earth with a proposal

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

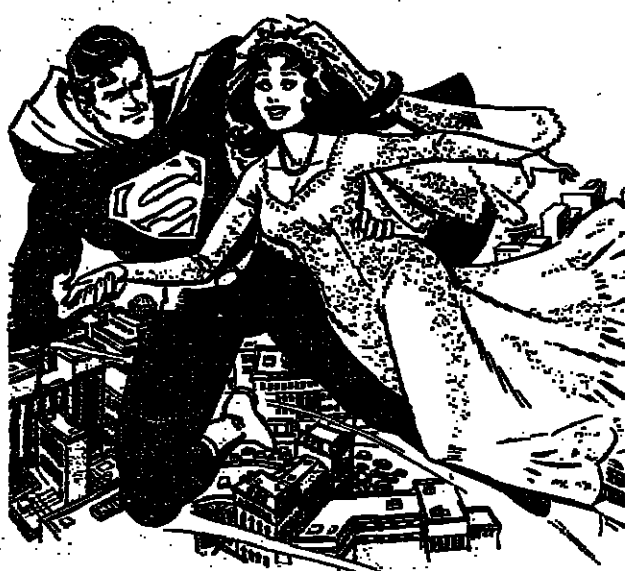
AFTER half a century thinking about it, Clark Kent has finally put aside his mild manner, summoned his nerves of steel, and asked Lois Lane for her hand in marriage. Faster than a speeding bullet, she accepted.

DC Comics, which has tracked Superman's exploits since he hit the drawing board in 1938, broke news of the betrothal ahead of the publication of the historic strip on November 1. "End of an era" was the verdict of television news broadcasts yesterday.

Lois takes pity on her fellow reporter at the *Daily Planet* and consents to his bumbling proposal. She remains unaware that the meek Kent is the alter ego of America's original superhero.

But in a move that shocked the faithful, the publishers said yesterday that Kent will eventually reveal to his fiancée the secret that she should have guessed years ago. After years of barely tolerating her feeble colleague, she has come to realise that Kent is "always there when she needs him", according to the DC Comics announcement. "Being there for someone" is the vogue catch-phrase, adopted of late by everyone from President Bush to telephone companies.

The writing team originally envisaged having Lois say no because she still loves the man of steel but then relented because "she may have been rough and mean on Clark Kent over the years but it was always work-related." For



most of the past 50 years, Lois has burned with an unrequited passion for Superman.

Only in one of the films was the passion consummated. The usual brush-off went like this: "I'd like to be in your arms always, Superman, (sigh)" she told the fighter for truth, justice and the American way, when he rescued her from one scrape or a couple of decades ago. "Uh, Sorry Lois, but you know the answer to that," Superman replied. "My life is a constant round of super-action and danger and only a superhero could keep up with me!"

Kent takes the fateful decision after losing his superpowers in a brush with the dreaded red Kryptonite. Reduced to the level of ordinary

Dream or nightmare?, page 18

Budget marathon heads for last lap

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA's latest marathon mini-series — budget talks on Capitol Hill — appeared yesterday to be on track for a more-or-less happy ending as the Bush administration and congressional leaders worked to resolve the remaining big obstacle of how to tax millionaires more heavily.

The matter is big on symbolism, but is not expected to be much help to the government in trimming its soaring federal budget deficit: only about 60,000 Americans return tax forms each year declaring incomes of more than \$1 million, barely enough to fill even some of the country's largest football stadiums.

However, the issue of "fairness", or how to levy more revenues from the wealthy after a decade during which Reagan policies increased the tax burden on the poor and the middle classes, has become the battle cry of Democrats in the run-up to next month's mid-term state and local elections across the United States.

Bitner wrangling over a budget deal during recent weeks has split Mr Bush's Republican party, giving Democrats, as the majority party in Congress, a perfect opportunity to gain the upper hand with the White House in negotiations over taxation.

Under pressure to reach an agreement by today's deadline to prevent the second closure of government services this month, Mr Bush has softened his stance on spending cuts. In

the view of conservative Republicans, he is also about to reverse one of his predecessor's greatest gains by agreeing to an increase in marginal income tax rates.

The bargainers have tentatively agreed on increasing a top-earner's income tax rate to 31 per cent from 28 per cent; a slight rise in petrol tax; cuts in federal medical benefits for the elderly; and a range of "sin" taxes on expensive cars, boats, furs, jewellery, tobacco and alcohol.

House Republicans, who revolted against an original bipartisan budget deal last month after Mr Bush dropped his insistence on a capital gains break, have threatened to vote against whatever emerges from efforts by the administration and Congress to meld a package from House and Senate proposals already passed.

Mr Bush, stepping away for a day from the budget mess in Washington to stump for Republican candidates in the economically depressed region of New England, yesterday called on members of his party to forsake "self-interest" and support a budget plan.

Budget negotiators in Washington sounded hopeful that they were within a hair's breadth of a deal to cut the federal deficit by \$300 billion (£257 billion) over the next five years, and by just over slightly more than \$40 billion in the current financial year.

Election burden, page 12

Change of Mortgage Interest Rate

Change of Mortgage Interest Rate

The rate of interest charged to existing borrowers with mortgages will be reduced. A new tier has been introduced for loans of £100,000 and over.

All of these rates apply from 1st November 1990. The standard rate for mortgages on fully owner occupied residential properties will now be:

Mortgages up to £59,999	
Endowment	14.65%
Repayment	14.65%
Mortgages of £60,000 - £99,999	
Endowment	13.95%
Repayment	13.95%
Mortgages of £100,000 plus	
Endowment	13.65%
Repayment	13.65%

All borrowers will be advised individually of the effect of this change on their accounts.

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Reformed communists wrestle with the politics of profit

JANOS Petrenko is a capitalist-communist. He drives a Soviet-made Volga limousine but underneath the bonnet is a Mercedes Benz engine. "That way, the police don't pester me on the road," he declares, proud of his cunning.

Despite his political credentials — a communist party member since 1962 and a deputy in parliament — he has an entrepreneurial flair that may just save the Hungarian steel industry. He started his own business in 1971 and, within the strict limits accorded to private enterprise, he was a success, owning six patent licences which have, by Hungarian standards, made him a rich man. But not, perhaps, rich enough.

The Hungarian steel industry, like all of Eastern Europe's heavy manufacturers, was being kept alive with subsidies, guaranteed Soviet-bloc markets and a muscular political lobby.

There was no incentive to innovate since success was measured by brute input-output statistics. At the Ozd metallurgical



works it takes 35 hours to produce a tonne of steel, compared with between three and eight hours in West European plants. The industry was ripe for privatisation — but who will buy? The West German steel companies Korf AG and Metall-Gesellschaft AG scouted around the works and came up with an offer of a joint venture. Several thousand workers would have to be laid off, however, and so the political foot-dragging began in Budapest.

Enter Mr Petrenko, who promptly bought up the MWO rolling mill, part of the MWO complex coveted by the Germans. The mill was a bargain of sorts: about £100,000 for a potentially high-profit works employing 640

In the second extract from his book, *The Hard Road to the Market*, Roger Boyes looks at the problems facing East European businessmen who are tackling the task of trying to shape capitalism without capital.

people. He has completely overhauled the factory, sacking many of the administrators and clerks, computerising production, increasing by 20 per cent the salaries of the remaining workers, and selling directly to the West rather than through the dinosaur-like trading agencies.

The ambition of the 50-year-old businessman, though, was to take over and transform the whole of the MWO plant, which produces 1.5 million tonnes of steel a year. But where was the capital — some £20 million — to come from? Not from Hungarian sources, nor from his own pocket. The Hungarian drummed up the support of Swedish investors, but their credit needed the backing of the Hungar-

ian National Bank, and Budapest balked. The vicious circle of trying to shape capitalism without capital seems to have thwarted Mr Petrenko for the time being.

The problem of finding buyers for East European industry has tempted many local businessmen, usually the former communist management, deliberately to undervalue their factory assets and then offer bargains to the West. In return, they keep their chauffeurs and receive sweeteners. One of the aims of the British know-how fund is to stop this sleight of hand by training a new generation of accountants and giving solid advice on how to value factories that are up for sale. The dearth of domestic capital,

coupled with suspicions about Western joint ventures, has led to a strengthening of government control over privatisation. The Polish prime minister, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, whose government is set to privatise seven factories next month, has just appointed his closest economic adviser, Waldemar Kuczyński, to head the privatisation ministry. And the Hungarian State Property Agency — which monitors the sale of state enterprises — has been brought under direct government control.

The privatisation of Polish industry began with the Krosno glassworks, which is being treated as a kind of guinea pig. The procedures have been choreographed with Western, mainly British, help. The assets were objectively valued, balance sheets were checked by outside accountants, an efficiency forecast was drawn up by the consultants Moore Stephens, while the London-based Schroder bank is watching over the stock issue. Workers will be entitled to some preference shares,

and there seems to be considerable interest from Polish investors. But the investment habit has to be learned, as does the idea that capital can be risked. Krosno is one of the jewels in the crown, but even so it is vulnerable — for example if Soviet natural gas deliveries to Poland are stopped, or slowed. How should a Polish investor, without even a stock exchange or a developed financial market, react to such normal commercial ups and downs? Nobody knows yet.

The political questions about privatisation centre on unemployment and employee participation. Workers are already sensing that they are the main victims of the market revolution. Unemployment in Poland will be 1.2 million by the end of the year, 100,000 in Hungary. Officially, last year there was no unemployment at all.

How then to persuade workers that privatisation does not just mean more, and faster, unemployment? The Polish government has toyed with the idea of large-scale

worker share ownership — perhaps on the model of the British National Freight Corporation — but the mood has moved decisively against this "economic bolshevism": is how government advisers now describe it. Even a bill to make a one-off issue of free or low-cost shares to Gdansk shipyard workers has stumbled into trouble. The free marketeers have learned to organise over the past six months and now form a more powerful lobby than the worker-romantic faction of Solidarity.

But the real challenge of privatisation, the second stage of the East European revolutions, is in the workings of the individual markets that influence everyday life. It is there, in the fight for housing, cars and decent social services, that the limits of public tolerance will be tested.

Next: the housing market

The Hard Road to the Market is published by Secker and Warburg on October 29.

Britain 'will opt for France' as partner in missile project

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

AS BRITAIN and France held defence talks yesterday, a senior British expert predicted the two countries would undertake joint development of an air-launched nuclear cruise missile.

Tom King, the defence secretary, who met Jean-Pierre Chevènement, his French counterpart, is believed to be close to a decision on whether to co-operate with the United States or France. Colonel Michael Dewar, deputy director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said he believed political factors would cause the government to choose the French. He understood an announcement was likely before the end of the year to develop a nuclear

missile capable of being launched from an aircraft without first penetrating an enemy's air defences. The project is described in Britain as TASM — tactical air-to-surface missile — and as ASLP (air-sol longue portée) in France.

David Owen, MP for Plymouth Devonport, an advocate of greater Anglo-French defence co-operation, said he greatly hoped the government would choose the French. "It is an historic decision... profoundly important for the development of Europe."

Michel Rocard, the French prime minister, said on Monday that such co-operation could have "considerable impact on European security."

The Ministry of Defence said no decision had been taken, but an initial report on the feasibility of Anglo-French co-operation would be ready by the end of the year. The two countries have been discussing it for three years.

However, Colonel Dewar believes the advantages of working with France have become stronger recently. Britain can no longer assume America will be a permanent supplier of nuclear systems. Washington has assured the government it will honour its commitment to sell the sea-launched Trident missile, and any successor, but Colonel Dewar says over the next five to ten years the Soviet Union might well persuade the US to reconsider supplying Britain.

He believes Nato will subdivide, with America and Canada in one group and the EC and Western European Union in another. At present the WEU is regarded as the European pillar of Nato, but Gianni De Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, has proposed linking it to the Community. Margaret Thatcher would probably prefer the US option, but Colonel Dewar says a combination of doubts over Washington's long-term view and EC pressures could change this.

The French have been pressing the British for some time to make up their minds. The advantages for Paris are more budgetary than political. Its inter-continental ballistic missiles will need replacing by the end of the century and Colonel Dewar believes France will phase them out and rely on a combination of its submarine-launched nuclear missiles and ASLP.

A combination of Trident and TASM would also suit Britain, which needs a new weapon to fill defence gaps caused by the withdrawal of American cruise missiles under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty of 1988. The Nato decision not to build a replacement for the Lance missile, the withdrawal of nuclear artillery shells from Europe, and the probability that Germany will insist on all nuclear weapons being withdrawn from its territory.

A MoD source said the priority was to replace Britain's free-fall nuclear bombs. The Anglo-French option was seen not so much as co-operation as purchasing an existing French delivery system, while the US option would involve joint development of a new one. It was for this reason Britain signed a memorandum of understanding with America, but not France. The move did not imply it was leaning towards choosing the Americans.



Touch of harmony: Helen Hayes, the first lady of the American theatre, getting a kiss from the country music star, Randy Travis, at a party in New York to celebrate the actress's 90th birthday. She is a country fan.

Hardline Soviet hecklers fail to preserve trade union dinosaur

From Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

ONE of the Soviet Union's many institutional dinosaurs, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the official trade union organisation, is to be laid to rest this week after five mostly uncontentious decades. When the 2,300 delegates assembled for their 19th full congress in the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses yesterday, they discovered to their consternation that it was to be the last.

On the agenda, they found an item providing for the "establishment of the All-Union Confederation of Trade Unions of the USSR". The fourth point on the agenda occasioned great agitation among delegates who interrupted proceedings repeatedly in the opening minutes to clarify the issue.

The chairman's attempts to railroad it through were greeted with loud heckling from delegates who wanted a vote taken on whether to dissolve the old union before establishing the new one. Despite the vocal opposition, the computer votes showed an overwhelming "yes" for all the proposals from the chair in

accordance with the old-style reputation of the council. The turmoil was observed with detachment by the leadership troika of President Gorbachev, Anatoli Lukyanov, the Supreme Soviet chairman, and Nikolai Ryzhkov, the prime minister, who had been invited to sit on the platform.

The opening report, given by the deputy chairman of the council, Vladimir Shcherbakov, reflected the degree to which the official trade unions have had to change to keep any members at all. There was much about the need to oppose the government's economic policy, to extract an annual undertaking on a minimum wage, holiday entitlement and social benefits, and on the obligation of the unions to fight for the rights and social protection of workers. "If they are not given their rights, they will take them, and this would bring about the sort of disintegration that would be fatal for the country," Mr Shcherbakov said.

He outlined a series of Gorbachev-style policies for the revamped trade union

organisations, which include renunciation of the exclusive right to represent workers and a willingness to co-operate with any group which "represents the interests of workers". In the past, the official trade unions might have been expected to lambast unofficial workers' organisations, in particular the congress of miners' committees which opened on Monday in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk. Yesterday there was much breast-beating as Mr Shcherbakov said these organisations would not have started had the official unions been doing their job. He also criticised the council's former policy of condemning unofficial groups. If the official union organisation had chosen to co-operate with them early on, he said, they could have "helped them draft more moderate programmes".

Later, there was outspoken criticism from the floor of the former chairman of the council, Gennadi Yanayev, who was transferred to the Communist party politburo in July. Although the transfer is unlikely to have been entirely his decision, he was condemned for betraying the cause or "showing his true colours".

The council failed to elect a new chairman at their summer meeting and it now appears that this is because of the decision to change the name, and probably the character, of the organisation.

Some speakers expressed concern that the official trade unions were being sidelined as new political bodies such as the soviets and republic parliaments took a greater role. They demanded that the trade unions give their approval before plants were sold off and that the workers should be given first refusal on whether to take over the enterprise. One objected that the unions were being treated constitutionally as little more than "social clubs".

While opinions will differ about the significance of the change of name, the trade union organisation is none the less the first national organisation to use the word confederation and move towards a fully federal structure.

Media task, page 17

Peking welcomes end of sanctions

Peking — China has welcomed the European Community's decision to lift economic sanctions imposed after the June 4 killings last year (Catherine Sampson writes).

A foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday: "In our view, the decision made at the meeting of the EC foreign ministers in Luxembourg to restore relations with China is a sensible one. We hope that the two sides will make joint efforts to further improve and develop the relations between China and Europe."

The spokesman made no mention of the killings, but said that China valued relations with Europe which were based on non-interference in each other's internal affairs. Nor was there any mention of human rights issues in China.

The EC foreign ministers said they had seen some progress on human rights issues. China has released nearly 900 people detained in the hardline backlash after the killings, including some prominent intellectuals.

Lorry drivers close Alps pass

Rome — Several hundred lorry drivers from Austria, Germany, The Netherlands and Italy, protesting against new restrictions on heavy vehicle traffic over the Brenner Pass, closed Italy's principal route through the Alps (Richard Bassett writes).

They sealed off customs buildings at the Italian-Austrian frontier and isolated the motorway south into Italy from Innsbruck. Reports spoke of tourists forced to abandon their vehicles and mile-long queues. The busy crossing handles on average more than 3,000 lorries a day.

Manila alert

Manila — The Philippines put troops around the country on combat alert after rebels bombed the offices of Caltex and Shell oil companies here, and radical unions, supported by communist guerrillas, vowed to halt industries and transport with a strike today. Moderate unions held off plans to join the strike for a reduction in fuel prices, and wage increases, saying they would wait for the outcome of negotiations with government wage boards. (Reuters)

Rwanda impasse

Kigali — Rwandan rebels said they accept a ceasefire offer but cannot withdraw from northeast Rwanda, as demanded by the government. Major Peter Bayingana, a rebel spokesman, said: "Most of us are deserters from the Ugandan army and we can't go back to Uganda." In Belgium, the Rwandan ambassador said his government stood firm on the condition of a rebel withdrawal before any ceasefire. (AFP)

Packer recovers

Sydney — Kerry Packer, the Australian businessman who had a heart attack at a polo match 16 days ago, is in a satisfactory condition after a "routine" four-hour heart bypass operation, St Vincent's private hospital said. Mr Packer, aged 52, who owns Australia's highest-rating television station and its largest magazine empire, could be discharged today. (Reuters)

Angolan delay

Lisbon — Peace talks planned for this week between UNITA rebels and the left-wing Angolan government have been delayed by technical factors, Portuguese mediators said. The negotiations, the fifth hosted by Portugal in seven months, in an attempt to end the 15-year civil war, might take place next week but it could be later. They gave no more details. (Reuters)

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Althusser death symbolizes marxist decline

By A Special Correspondent

THE death of the French philosopher Louis Althusser yesterday marks a further stage in the slow demise of an era: a period when marxism and neo-marxism of various kinds were not only inescapable but often dominant themes in French intellectual debate.

He taught at the Ecole Normale Supérieure until he strangled his wife in 1980, but was found incapable of standing trial and sent to a clinic, where he spent three years. A lifelong member of the French Communist Party, he was a sharp critic of it.

Althusser belonged to a line of French marxist intellectuals, including Sartre and Foucault, who dominated intellectual life for four decades. The era inspired by marxism has lasted longer than anywhere else in France and Germany. Althusser's

death may be part of the end of an era but, as liberals triumph, the sharpness and subtlety of his thought should be remembered.

The debates of the era touched only specialists in Britain; and they were rare. France, however, was a hotbed of passionate discussion, not confined to experts or technical philosophers, but spilling over into general intellectual discourse. French marxists were particularly close to their German colleagues, and contributed to what at times looked like an almost exclusively continental European debate.

Althusser's main contribution to it was to try to disentangle Marx from Hegel. What was in question, once again, was Marx's early thought — the so-called "economic and philosophical manuscripts" written in 1844.

Here, the Hegelian influence was much in evidence — particularly in the concept of "alienation". For Hegel, this had meant the process whereby the mind begins to acquire self-consciousness by "objectifying" itself. Marx transferred the concept to the social sphere, seeing "alienation" as the condition of workers reduced to being mere pawns, "alienated" from the system in which they were enmeshed. For Hegel's objectification Marx read "reification" — "thingifying", dehumanising life.

All this, Althusser argued, was far from central to Marx's thought. What Althusser identified as central was a structuralist interpretation of society.

Today, looking back over the barbed-wire entanglements of critical theory and the ruins of the Berlin Wall,

some of this obsessive concentration on the nuances of what Marx meant seems antiquarian. Some, but not all. Structuralism, in fact, has lent useful tools to political and literary analysts. But, with Althusser's death, a page in France has certainly turned.

Even 20 years ago, it was almost not respectable in academic circles to question the reputation of Marx and marxist thinkers. But today fashionable French philosophy has abandoned Marx.

First came the so-called "New Philosophers", whom their critics denied both words of their adopted title. Then came the so-called Solzhenitsyn effect — the belated realisation that all was not well in the Soviet Union. The revolutions in Eastern Europe and the reunification of Germany have made Solzhenitsyns of us all.



Althusser: member and critic of French party

Singh on the brink after Hindu party ends support

From COOMBE KAPOOR IN DELHI

THE Indian minority government of V. P. Singh was on the brink of collapse yesterday after the Bharatiya Janata Party withdrew the support of its 86 MPs. The 11-month administration of Mr Singh has 147 MPs, and survived with the support of the right-wing pro-Hindu BJP and the communist parties.

The party's letter to President Venkataraman, withdrawing its support for the government, followed the arrest of its president, L. K. Advani, yesterday morning in Samastipur in the northeastern state of Bihar. Mr Advani has been travelling the country in an attempt to

High cost of living angers villages

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

THERE is a theory that in 11 turbulent months of power Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the prime minister of India, has made himself the parish of the small high-caste urban elite, the darling of Muslims, the saviour of the low-caste masses, and the favourite of Harijans (untouchables).

By this assessment he should be the most popular politician in the history of India. Yet he presides over a dismally disliked and polarised government that has alienated the rural masses by its failure to fulfil a torrent of excessive campaign promises. Village India, where elections are won and lost, is angry with Mr Singh.

Beyond caste and communalism, beyond the trannies of Kashmir, Punjab and Assam, the issue that stalks Indian politics today is prices. Mr Singh's passionate cause, which has unleashed massive high-caste violence in the acutely sensitive northern heartland, has demonstrably failed to excite the 450 million Indians who are either Harijans (17 per cent of the population), low castes (22 per cent), or tribals (5 per cent). Far from improving their lives, the policy has heightened higher-caste antagonism towards them. Mr Singh is not being thanked for his grand gesture.

But the real reason for Mr Singh's failure is to be found in the government ration shops across the teeming countryside. Petrol and other oil products went up 25 per cent a fortnight ago, a blow to every poor villager who will ever buy a can of paraffin from the local ration shop.

In the meantime India has no effective government. Mr Singh's only hope for survival or re-election is the caste equation: the Bharatiya Janata Party had to choose between saving the government or itself, and it chose the latter.

whip up support for a BJP-sponsored plan to build a Hindu temple on the site of a Muslim mosque at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

Mr Advani had ignored the pleas of most political parties to call off his journey. A large entourage has accompanied him and he has been cheered by crowds all along the route. His theme was *Hindutva*, or the resurgence of Hinduism, the religion of around 80 per cent of the Indian population.

Mr Advani was arrested on the orders of Laloo Prasad Yadav, the Janata Dal chief minister, on the grounds that his campaign was inciting religious hatred and could lead to a breakdown of law and order. The BJP, led by Atal Behari Vajpayee, and Hindu organisations have called for the closure of all offices, shops and other establishments throughout the country today in protest.

Mr Singh, who met President Venkataraman yesterday, asked that his strength be tested in parliament, which is not at present in session. Mr Singh hopes to win support for his government's decision not to allow the construction of the temple in Ayodhya, even though his government is unlikely to survive a no-confidence vote. The main opposition party, Congress (I), headed by Rajiv Gandhi, has 196 MPs. President Venkataraman said he would look into the constitutional position before deciding what action to take.

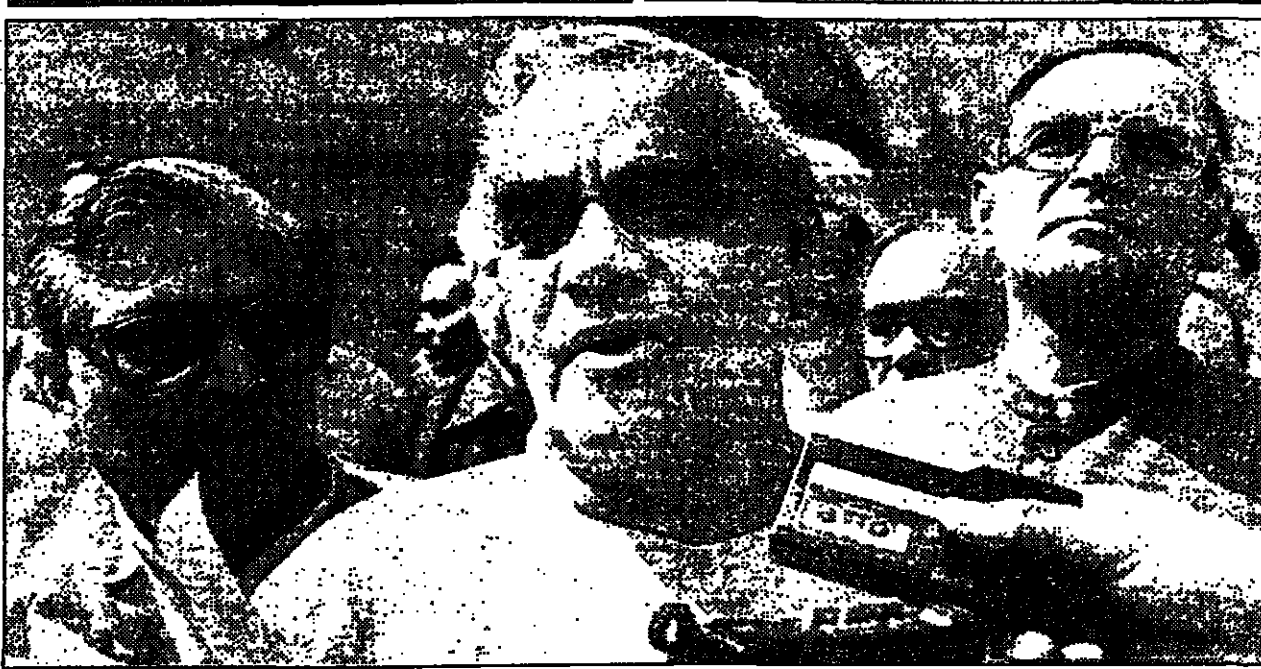
Most political observers feel there are only two possibilities: either a mid-term poll is called, or a breakaway section of Janata Dal tries to form a government backed by Congress. Mr Gandhi has indicated that Congress will support any government which does not include Mr Singh or the BJP.

Although frantic attempts have been made in the past few weeks to work out a solution to the temple issue, Mr Singh's government has failed to come up with a formula acceptable to Hindus and Muslims. A government ordinance to take over the disputed land was revoked after protests by Muslim fundamentalists.

On Monday night Mr Singh, in a broadcast on national television, declared that any number of governments could be sacrificed to save the nation and that the law would be upheld at all costs until the courts decided the temple-mosque issue.

The BJP accuses Janata Dal of pandering to the Muslim community with a deliberate eye on gaining Muslim support in elections. About 10 per cent of the Indian population are Muslims.

While it is too early to predict the outcome of any mid-term election, Mr Gandhi, the former prime minister, appears to have an edge. Indians are fed up with the instability of Mr Singh's government, and Mr Gandhi has been attracting large crowds at his meetings.



Powers that be: V. P. Singh, the Indian prime minister, top left, is clinging on to office after Atal Behari Vajpayee, above, withdrew his party's support for the government following the arrest of L. K. Advani, top right, the Hindu revivalist

Jatoi stops MPs crossing floor to join Bhutto

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PAKISTAN'S caretaker government under Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the acting prime minister, yesterday published an ordinance banning floor-crossing by individual MPs, a move clearly designed to hamper any post-election attempt by Benazir Bhutto to piece together a government.

The move came amid confident predictions by the Islamic Democratic Alliance, an eight-party coalition, that Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party will be unable to form an administration without substantial "horse-trading" — the euphemism for offering bribes or other incentives to MPs in return for support.

The ordinance takes immediate effect. It provides for an MP to be disqualified from parliament if he crosses the floor to a rival camp in defiance of instructions from his party.

The Pakistani authorities meanwhile filed another charge of abuse of power against Miss Bhutto and extended her husband's detention on the eve of the elections. The charge of illegal appointments to government jobs was filed before a one-man tribunal in the Punjab capital of Lahore, the official APP news agency said. The hearing has been set for November 5. This was the seventh charge brought against Miss Bhutto after President Ishaq Khan dismissed her 20-month-old government on August 6 and promised fresh elections.

A magistrate in Karachi again remanded Miss Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, in police custody until tomorrow, a lawyer acting for him said. The order means Mr Zardari, who was arrested on October 10 in connection with extortion and illegal bank loans, will contest today's election for the National Assembly (lower house of parliament) from a police cell.

Miss Bhutto met her husband in a police investigation centre before he was taken to court, and later told reporters his morale was very high. Mr Zardari said outside the court that he had been kept in a "torture cell". But senior Bhutto aides said there was no indication that he was being mistreated.

Miss Bhutto denies accusations of abuse of power levelled at her by the caretaker government of her political opponents which has set up 12 special courts to try her and her colleagues. Two courts in Lahore and one in Karachi are examining six charges ranging from the cheap sale of prime land in Islamabad for a hotel to misuse of secret service funds.

Miss Bhutto appealed to people yesterday to vote for her party in today's polls. "Vote for arrow," she said, referring to the PPP's election symbol, one of those allotted to parties by the election authorities in order to help illiterate voters. "Victory is ours from Khyber to Karachi," she said.

The polls open at 8am throughout Pakistan as the country's fifth general election — but only the third democratic one — gets under way. About 50 million voters will choose 207 Muslim MPs, plus ten from religious minorities.

Sleaze takes hold in Phnom Penh

From JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

NOISY, cognac-swilling, nouveau riches Cambodian traders throng the restaurants of Phnom Penh, saving away with toothpicks at mouthfuls of gold-filled teeth. At nightclubs along the Tonle Sap river, they push mountains of food aside, and bellow boozey suggestions to painted Vietnamese prostitutes.

Elsewhere in Cambodia, not far beyond the boundaries of the capital, people may be dying in rice fields sown with mines, or facing hunger pangs in makeshift camps for displaced people, or cowering in bunkers and staring out into the night, where the murderous Khmer Rouge lurk.

But in the capital, which in 1975 was emptied of people by the soldiers of Pol Pot, who hated city folk, it is as if there were no tomorrow. The traders, and the nomenclature of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, the single permitted political party, have never had it so good.

The traders, many of whom have good political connections, are making their fortunes selling gems, rubber and timber. Smuggling and corruption are commonplace, though some officials have been jailed as an example.

It is the traders who import the cars, motorbikes and consumer goods which in the past two years, since the Vietnam-backed regime introduced a market economy, are evidence of a boom. This is a boom

which is already ending as Soviet aid diminishes drastically under Moscow's worldwide cutbacks to its allies.

The days of Phnom Penh's gracious living and good manners are over, perhaps for ever. "We don't go out any more," said one foreign relief worker who knows Cambodia well. "There are too many gangsters about."

There is also an outbreak of dengue fever with 3,500 cases so far; the mortality rate is 5 per cent, mostly young children. The sewer system has broken down and ordure fills some streets near the central market.

There is another, more edifying side to Phnom Penh life, typified by the street they call "London". Here, every night, young people cram makeshift classrooms in wooden-built private schools to learn English, Thai and Japanese.

The larger burden of the war seems to be borne unjustly by the country people these days. This is just how it has always been in Cambodia.

War weariness is endemic everywhere, but in the rural areas there is an extra note of exhaustion and desperation.

"The gap is growing between the capital and the countryside," said one foreign relief agency official. "That, in the end, may not work to the benefit of the Phnom Penh regime. It is a road Cambodia has been down before."

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Stirrings in the South

Martin Jacques

Eastbourne was certainly a disaster for the Conservatives, but on the face of it there was little to encourage Labour either. Labour may be running high in the opinion polls, but its share of the vote fell from a bare 9 per cent to a miserable 3 per cent. If Labour is to win the next election, it must make a limited breakthrough in the South. In the 1987 general election, it won only three seats outside London and south of a line from the Severn to the Wash. The test of Labour's capacity to become a national rather than an essentially regional party is its ability to rebuild in the South of England.

Labour's decline in the South is not a recent phenomenon: it dates from the mid-1950s. Since then the South has become by far the most prosperous region, with the highest share of gainers and the smallest proportion of losers. The occupational structure of the South has prefigured national trends, with a disproportionate representation of those burgeoning groups among which Labour does relatively badly. And Labour's roots have never been nearly as strong in the South as in the North, and so were especially vulnerable to the cultural changes of the last 30 years.

These long-term trends have found particularly potent expression in the past decade. During the 1980s the southern economy boomed, with unemployment well below that of the North. House prices rocketed, fuelling support for home-ownership. The occupational structure shifted rapidly as high-tech firms gravitated to the M4 corridor, science parks and the like, international firms established their research centres in the South, and finance and business services clustered in the South-east to service the City. Labour was not simply in retreat, but routed. The South was the testament to Labour's inability to move with the times. It became symbolic of triumphant Thatcherism.

Today, however, much of the euphoria has evaporated. The coming recession, by all accounts, is likely to hit the South rather harder than the North. High interest rates have undermined the housing market in the South above all. The optimism surrounding economic growth in the mid-1980s has given way to a rising concern about the environment and the consequences of that growth. In short, the South is no longer isolated by exceptional growth and prosperity. Instead its problems are beginning to resemble those of the rest of the country. Thatcherism's relationship with the region is nothing like as secure as it was.

Despite its poor Eastbourne showing, there are signs of a Labour recovery. According to the latest Gallup poll figures, Labour is about 4 per cent behind the

Conservatives in the South, compared with almost 31 per cent in 1987. Such aggregate figures can of course be deceptive. In a majority of Tory-held southern seats (Eastbourne among them), the Alliance came second in 1987. In these Labour has no hope of winning, and its best bet, if it is to become the largest party in the Commons, must be tactical voting along the lines of Eastbourne last week. In a minority of constituencies, however, Labour came second in 1987, and some of these it must win.

Throughout the 1980s Labour managed to retain control of a significant number of local authorities in the South and more recently has begun to make gains. Milton Keynes, Oxford, Brighton, Southampton, Exeter and Basingstoke are among many councils surprisingly controlled by Labour. Of course, Labour has generally found it easier to win council seats than seats in Parliament, because local elections are about the administration of public services, whereas during the 1980s general elections have been predominantly about taxes and defence. Nonetheless, running local councils is a crucial springboard to winning parliamentary seats.

Labour's recovery at the local level has not simply been about votes. One senses a new Labour-in-the-making in those parts of the South where it stands some chance: Southampton, Swindon or Bristol, for example. Here public-sector professionals still tend to constitute the biggest single group of councillors, but there is now a sizeable presence of private-sector professionals drawn from such fields as finance and business services. Until recently, the deputy leader of the Swindon Labour group was the personnel manager of Allied Dunbar. Meanwhile, little remains of the manufacturing trade-union connection which was until very recently so important.

Moreover, there are councils that emphasise efficiency and modernisation in their aim of delivering high-quality public services. The councils identify closely with the economic prosperity of their towns and seek close partnerships with the private sector. There is also a growing preoccupation with environmental issues. Many of these councils differ little in their style, priorities and composition from equivalent socialist councils in Germany and France.

In much of the South, Labour has no hope for the general election and little prospect for the future. The damage of the 1980s was too great and the original base too weak. But elsewhere there is evidence that Labour can stage some kind of recovery. The South is no longer Thatcher's playground, and Labour has begun to construct a new kind of culture more representative of the groups to which it must appeal.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

I have often been asked how I came to be admitted into the enchanted circle of Mr Wallace Arnold. In *Who's Who* he describes himself as "one of the foremost scriveners of *de nos jours*, friend to many of our leading politicians, confidant of Royalty (beloved godfather to Princess Beatrice), cornerstone of the Centre for Policy Studies, flagship columnist for *The Spectator*, Entertainment Secretary of the Garrick Club 1978... author of many tomes in *The Punch Book of Motoring* (1969) and *Pardon Me* (1989)..." Surely, my friends seem to suggest, flickers of jealousy illuminating their faces, a man of such distinction would have little time for you?

I am, I suppose, not much more than a sounding-board for the great man, an unpaid secretary, willing to listen and annotate as he relates his entrancing anecdotes about the men of influence with whom he has rubbed shoulders.

I first met Wallace Arnold after he had returned from holiday with Sir Nicolas and Elena Ceausescu, a couple then very much in vogue. "It was at this intimate gathering," he said, "that Sir David Steel presented Sir Nicolas with an adorable pedigree hunting dog called Gladstone. Such was the Ceausescus' gratitude that on the morning Lady Elena came down to breakfast with the proud beast already boned and skinned, its handsome fur lending her neckline a touch of much-needed glamour."

Later, Mr Arnold was to insist that "at no time did I regard the Romanian leader with anything less than the deepest suspicion, and I consistently argued against his policies to his face on my extended visits to his holiday villa in 1973, '75, '78 (twice), '80, '83, '86 and '87." He is, as he maintains, a man of principle, and that is why so many people in the public eye choose to confide in him. Even the obsessively secretive Graham Greene never misses an opportunity to open up his heart to Wallace Arnold, who is for ever having to advise him on more appropriate camouflage. "My notoriously private friend Mr Graham Greene," Arnold once told me, "has, in a desperate bid for the obscurity

he craves, taken to restricting his exclusive interviews to no more than two a week. In recent years, Graham has gone to great lengths to disguise his identity on his visits to London, now donning black leathers and tin helmet to parade as just another motorcycle messenger around the literary salons of Bedford Square, now dressing as Santa when taking cocktails at Le Caprice. I regret to say that in my experience, the placard he wears throughout his annual sojourn at the Ritz ("I AM NOT GRAHAM GREENE") often fails to fool the eagle-eyed."

By no means all Mr Arnold's friends are so *louche* or, so shy. He has the fondest memories of Mr Enoch Powell, for instance. "I first made the acquaintance of this brilliant intellect at a drinks party he gave to celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of Balaklava," he once confided to me. "Clad in the appropriate head-dress, his moustache just visible through the mouth-hole, Enoch fixed me with his penetrating stare and asked me what alcoholic beverage I cared to imbibe. I asked him for a gin and tonic. With impeccable logic, he arrived back with two beakers, one filled with gin, the other with tonic. 'You made no mention whatsoever within the terms of your initial request that the two fluids should be mixed in any way,' he replied to my protestations, his spurs playing havoc with the carpet as he spoke."

Other acquaintances of whom Mr Arnold liked to boast included the entire Milford family, including Muv, Farv, the ill-trained butler Shuv and the nouveau-riche governess, Parv, and those extraordinary children — Decca, the recording artiste, the anorexic Pecca, the flint Necca, the anarchist Recca and the young Kurdish fundamentalist, Mecca. To have been asked to edit Mr Arnold's new collection of such reminiscences has indeed been a privilege, and as one of the "numerous unnamed little people" Mr Arnold is gracious to thank in his Introduction. I confess to feeling rather proud. ● *The Incredible World of Wallace Arnold*, edited by Craig Brown, illustrated by William Rushin, is published tomorrow (Fourth Estate, £9.99).

Wilfred Beckerman says the world will suffer if we heed the global-warming doomsters

Keep cool and spurn the scientists

Today's report on climate change and world agriculture from the Royal Geographical Society and next week's ministerial conference in Geneva are the latest acts in the great global warming drama. The audience should be more sceptical.

The main source of the concern about global warming is the predictions of scientists. All over the world they are urging governments to make major reductions in carbon dioxide emissions to prevent their exceeding levels in the atmosphere that the scientists decide — arbitrarily — are the limit of what can be accepted.

What the costs of doing so might be in terms of the other things we would have to give up (houses, hospitals, schools, roads, not to mention the countless other goods and services that make up our standard of living) is seldom counted, let alone balanced against estimates of the damage that global warming might do (usually trivial). We are expected obediently to accept the line "Trust me, I'm a scientist".

The Geneva conference will reinforce this line. The scientific working group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

whose report forms the basis of the deliberations, has already recommended drastic cuts in carbon dioxide emissions. The group's influence on our thinking is already evident in the recent white paper on the environment.

Statements to the effect that, for example, "Global warming is one of the biggest environmental challenges now facing the world" merely help to perpetuate the current hysteria.

By distracting attention from serious environmental problems that could be resolved at relatively low cost, the global warming scare has not merely spawned more nonsense over the last couple of years than any other single topic, it has also done positive harm to the environment. Instead of taking a firm stand and surveying the mounting counter-evidence, not to mention the need to weigh up the costs and benefits of alternative courses of action, the white paper joins in the chorus.

It tamely reports the conclusions reached by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that unless preventive action is taken, the average global climate will be 3°C warmer by the end of the next century. So what? I have

just returned from Australia, where the average temperature exceeds that of Britain by a far greater margin and where people seem to flourish quite nicely, thank you. In fact, millions of people want to emigrate to Australia. Over the last few decades millions of Americans have migrated to southern states in search of a warmer climate. A few degrees' warming and future generations of Americans will not need to go to the trouble.

What people forget is that the world population is distributed over a very wide range of temperatures and manages to cope very well with the differences. Nothing could be more absurd than the notion that the human race is some tender, delicate species that can survive only in a temperature band of three degrees.

Many areas of the world would actually gain from global warming, such as those where the agricultural growing periods would be extended and vast new areas opened up to cultivation — not to mention the favourable effect that carbon dioxide has on plant growth. And some countries would lose considerably by draconian measures to reduce carbon

dioxide emissions. Estimates surveyed by authorities such as Professor William Nordhaus of Yale University, or William Cline of the Institute for International Economics, for example, all show that a rise of about three degrees associated with a doubling of the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere would leave total world agricultural output more or less unchanged, and that even including other effects, notably of the rising sea-level, the reduction in world output by the end of the next century would probably only be about 1 per cent of total output.

Meanwhile, assuming that real incomes per head go on rising on average at about 1.5 per cent per annum over the next 100 years, they would be about 4.4 times as high as they are now. So even if the estimates of global warming damage are too low and the damage turns out to be twice or three times as great — i.e. 2 or 3 per cent of total world output — this means that in a hundred years' time average incomes will still be about 4.3 times as high as they are now.

There is nothing morally superior about imposing heavy burdens on society today, which includes countless millions of very

poor people, in order that the population around the end of the next century should be 4.4 times as rich as we are now rather than only 4.3 times as rich. Environmentalist pressure groups must not be allowed to get away with the fiction that they occupy the moral high ground and represent the conscience of humanity.

None of this implies that greenhouse gases should not be reduced, where this can be done at low or zero cost. Hence, the white paper is right to concentrate action on a number of areas in which energy economics can be obtained, or carbon dioxide emissions reduced, simply by removing market distortions, by greater public knowledge of energy economics, or by promoting research and development. It is also right to cooperate in worldwide efforts to phase out CFCs, since substitutes are relatively inexpensive. But it would be absurd to be driven by self-righteous environmental lobbies to adopt the far more drastic action they are clamouring for. I am tempted to say "Trust me, I'm an economist". But that might be asking too much.

The author is a Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford.

Peter Stothard, US editor, reports on attempts to keep the White House at a distance in the mid-term elections

President Bush has just found the perfect site to end the last week of campaigning before the congressional elections on November 6. In a rare break with protocol that has surprised his advisers, he is to go to dilapidated downtown Cincinnati to fight not for an incumbent senatorial grandee or a governor who needs a million dollars in a hurry, but for a first-time Republican challenger in a lowly House seat in Ohio.

Some of the reasons are clear enough. Ken Blackwell is a rising star of the conservative movement, a former mayor and Dallas Cowboys footballer who quotes the Bible and *Alice in Wonderland* in his speeches. And he aims to become the first black Republican in the House of Representatives since 1932.

Unlike most black leaders (including those in the administration itself), Mr Blackwell supports the president's controversial veto this week of a bill that could force companies to hire black workers in proportion to the local black population. He is against racial quotas and other demeaning tactics of "affirmative action".

He represents the philosophy of "empowering" inner-city populations by the sale of public housing, privatisation and voucher schemes. He has the ideas that a growing number of White House aides believe Mr Bush must adopt if he is to save his presidency from the drift and disaster symbolised by the budget battle.

But Mr Blackwell, who is running neck-and-neck with Democrat Charles Luken, son of the retiring congressman, also has a more immediate use. In the Ohio First District, the voters still think that America is heading in the right direction under the Bush presidency. In a reversal of the

national figures, twice as many people think the country is doing well as think it is heading for the rocks. Cynics look at these numbers and quote Mark Twain's remark that things happen in Cincinnati ten years after they happen everywhere else.

But Mr Bush is not a cynic. He is looking for hopeful signs after a week of nasty news for the White House from Illinois, North Carolina, Texas and other states where he has made big campaign appearances for Republican candidates. The message there is: George Bush loses votes.

White House aides have quickly donned their damage-control suits to counter this slur. "No one had to go to the president with a computer print-out and a cocked pistol on a silver tray," said one. "The numbers were not clear enough to lock him up in the Oval Office," joked another. The news was unwelcome, none the less. Amid evidence of fiery discontent around the nation, here were strong hints that the man from the White House merely fanned the flames of anger and that those who stood nearest got burnt.

Mr Bush's senior economic advisers, John Sununu and Richard Darman, are widely discredited both for using crude threats and blackmail and (worse)

for failing to win by such means. The Republican party is now as divided over tax policy two years into the Bush presidency as the Democrats were at the same time in the Reagan years.

Most Republican candidates with a chance of winning a Democrat seat in the Senate are fighting against the White House policy of conceding tax increases to cut the budget deficit. Even leaders of the Republican national committee are issuing shrill condemnations of the president's policy, partly to protect themselves from blame if the result on November 6 is as bad for the party as they fear.

Mr Bush won election in 1988 with the lowest level of support in the House of Representatives of any president in the nation's history. Mid-term elections are traditionally more lightly led from the centre than those of the years when the presidency is being decided, and usually the president's party fares badly. But this year, when 435 seats in the House of Representatives, 35 in the Senate and 36 governorships are at stake, central direction is weaker

"It is one thing to advertise Mars bars and check how many you have sold, but how would you measure religious advertising?"

Westwood is also concerned that Christians with a distaste of the ephemeral and grasping world of advertising would resent the association. "He that toucheth pitch shall be defiled therewith," he says, quoting Ecclesiastes.

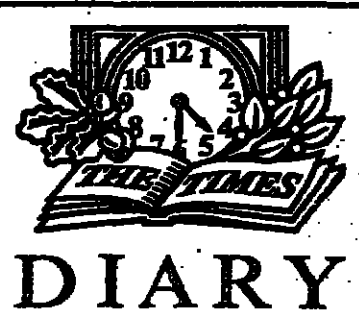
Leaning lion

When the Queen and President Cossiga of Italy unveil "The Lion of Venice" exhibition at the British Museum today, visitors familiar with the winged lion's usual position in the Piazzetta may be surprised if they look closely at the front paws. For



centuries the lion sat overlooking the Venice lagoon with the paws resting on an open volume symbolising the Book of Revelation. "We have had to display the lion without his book," says Andrew Hamilton of the British Museum. "It has nothing to do with us. The Italians took him down from his column five years ago and left the book up there."

Naturally, minus the elevation created by the book, the lion sits at



a different angle and, with his eyes cast shifty earthwards, loses much of his grandeur. "We have compensated with blocks under one front paw and one back paw to balance him," says Hamilton.

But perhaps the missing biblical book is just as well. Says John Julius Norwich: "He is an old, oriental, deeply pagan lion who must have been extremely surprised — and probably not pleased — to find himself suddenly metamorphosed into the emblem of a Christian evangelist."

Hang on, there

Although he intends to stand down at the next election, Nigel Lawson hopes Mrs Thatcher will call it later rather than sooner. Nothing to do with wanting to hang on to the trappings of Parliament for a few more months, simply that he has not yet started work on the memoirs he has promised his publishers after the election.

Practised journalist though he is, Lawson admits: "I simply could not deliver a completed manuscript if the election were held next summer." In the book, for which Bantam is said to be

paying £250,000, Lawson is expected to spill some beans about his row with the prime minister over Sir Alan Walters. So far, however, he has yet to send for his Treasury and Downing Street files. "I am still an MP. I have three directorships, and I am supposed to be writing the book," he says — although he adds that it is still an easier life than being chancellor. But none of Lawson's well-honed political skills have deserted him: "I know I said the memoirs would be published after the general election. I didn't say exactly how long after."

● The death of MP Norman Buchan yesterday deprives Labour of, among other things, its foremost expert on folk music. His wife, the Euro MP Janey Buchan, kept her spirits up during his illness by telling of what turned out to be his last ambulance journey some weeks ago. The ambulance man recognised Buchan but was told by Janey they did not want any publicity. Offended, he asked: "Do you think I would talk to anyone about who I have in the back of this ambulance? Why only last week I had the footballer Ally McCoist and I haven't told a soul." It was the sort of Glaswegian humour Buchan would have appreciated.

No, prime minister

When Jim Callaghan took over as prime minister in 1976 he pleaded with his predecessor, Harold Wilson, to stay in the government as foreign secretary. Lady Falkender, Wilson's former private secretary, will claim on BBC Radio 3 tonight. Those close to the government at the time, however, are sceptical

about the claim, which will be made in Anthony Howard's *The Wilson Years*, and the man best placed to know isn't telling. "I was asked about it by Anthony Howard, but I cannot recall the diplomatic response I gave," says Lord Callaghan.

The programme will also reveal how senior Labour ministers learnt of Wilson's resignation. Roy Hattersley had just arrived at Sofia airport when the British ambassador whispered: "The prime minister has resigned." Hattersley, shamefacedly confessed he had not read his Foreign Office brief and did not even know the prime minister's name. "Not theirs," said the ambassador. "Ours."

People's palace

Four months after President Vaclav Havel promised that he would do all he could to reinstate the British Council in the 17th-century palace in Prague from which the communists evicted it in 1949, he is still being frustrated by one of the last vestiges of Eastern-bloc bureaucracy, the League of Socialist Women, which refuses to budge. Havel revealed a sentimental attachment to the old British Council premises during Douglas Hurd's visit to Czechoslovakia earlier this year. "He and his friends remember visiting the Council, and his mother learnt English at a grammar school opposite," says a spokesman for the council. "It would be splendid if we could return to the palace from our present overcrowded office. It is much more central and conveniently near the main concert hall." Mozart would approve.



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BOLSTERING ARAB RESOLVE

Only a few weeks ago, Douglas Hurd was touring Saudi Arabia and the Gulf, preaching patience to governments deeply angered by the invasion and despoliation of Kuwait, sceptical of the efficacy of sanctions against Iraq and raring for combat. Now Saudi Arabia, departing from its hitherto hawkish stance, has added to the small forest of olive branches dangled before President Saddam Hussein. On Sunday remarks by the Saudi defence minister, Prince Sultan bin Abdul-Aziz, appeared to hint that, once Iraq withdrew from Kuwait, concessions might follow. There was, he said, no harm in an Arab state "giving its Arab sister land, a site, or a position on the sea".

Prince Sultan is the leading dove in the house of Saud. He has since claimed to have been misinterpreted and reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's categorical support for the United Nations (and Arab) resolutions demanding Iraq's unconditional withdrawal and the reinstatement of the Emir. His reference, he said, was to earlier peaceful settlements of Arab frontier disputes. The Saudi government has formally declared that its policy of no compromise is unchanged.

Neither these disclaimers, nor the categorical dismissal of any concessions by Kuwait's government-in-exile have dispelled the impression that the form of an eventual negotiated settlement is now slowly shaping. On Monday, King Fahd's appeal to Saddam, while it made no reference to rewarding Iraqi aggression, emphasised that Saddam would court "no disgrace" by recognising his blunder and retreating. Yesterday came the announcement that the six nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council will meet on Sunday.

There may be less to this than meets the eye. The phoney war is at its most delicate stage. The build-up of military force by the anti-Iraq coalition has now attained critical mass, and the desert heat is subsiding. For the first time since August 2, the military option is a serious alternative to waiting for sanctions "to work". Arab states which would be most affected by war must be expected to make a last-ditch attempt (as Western leaders have also done) to persuade Iraq to yield without bloodshed. There is nothing improper in avoiding the horror of war - provided the price of avoidance is not a more terrible war later.

Should Saddam emerge with some concrete gain from this imbroglio, there will be no security either in the Gulf or in the Arab world that Saddam aspires to dominate. Yet the Americans are, like the British and French, in Saudi Arabia as invited guests of the Saudi government. They cannot act unless the Arab members of the anti-Iraq coalition are at one with Washington in their determination to recover the whole of Kuwait.

Iraq can be defeated militarily. Western forces can legally justify an attack on Iraq's forces if Kuwait requests it and the Saudis

agree, even in the absence of an explicit mandate from the UN Security Council. But that minimum element of collectivity - in essence the full-hearted assent of most Arab states - is critical. Without it, military action by the Americans or other Western states is not an option, either politically or in terms of battlefield practicality. The West must not, by a neo-colonial heavy-handedness, turn Saddam into a martyr to the cause of a revived, virulently anti-western, Arab nationalism.

If Saudi Arabia were to broker an "Arab solution" acceptable to Egypt and the Emir of Kuwait - whether or not it was entirely to the West's liking - the West must acquiesce. If western forces are asked by the Arab League or the Gulf states to withdraw, then withdraw they must, trying as they do to argue that a policeman's lot is never easy and if the locals wish to sort things out their way, so be it. This was the Arab consensus that Mr Bush and others struggled to put together. The West is there at the Arabs' invitation, or not at all.

However, for the West to leave with a job half done would confirm the hawks in their view that Saddam will merely strengthen his hold on the emotions of extreme Arab nationalism throughout the region. This in turn would merely postpone the day of reckoning. It would leave the Israelis even more exposed and scarcely reassure a returning Kuwaiti government that Saddam "didn't really mean it after all." If the Americans leave, Saddam, for one, would doubtless feel they are not likely ever to return.

Yesterday in the Commons, Mrs Thatcher insisted on the need for so decisive a defeat for Iraq, including depriving it of chemical and nuclear weapons capacity, that "this matter does not ever arise again". If the West wishes to reinforce the vital Arab links in the anti-Saddam chain, it must now be careful what it says. It was President Mitterrand's disastrous suggestion that a mere Iraqi promise to withdraw would make "everything negotiable" that gave Saddam his first hope of splitting the alliance. Saudi Arabia has not gone so far - yet.

Saddam has been given every opportunity, by western supplicants from Kurt Waldheim to Edward Heath, to play cat and mouse with western hostages, western emotions and western anti-war sentiment. Willy Brandt is now thinking of treading the same route. These men must know what a dangerous game they play. They lend strength to Arab suspicions that the West is losing its nerve in the Gulf, leaving them with no alternative but to engage in constant talk of compromise.

At present, there is only one deal on the table, and it is a good one: Saddam's unconditional withdrawal from the whole of Kuwait. The West is entitled to ask its Arab allies that it remain the only one, even while recognising that this is their region and, ultimately, their dispute.

FAVOUR THE UNDER-FIVES

As universal state benefits go, those to children are easy to defend. Poverty is at its worst in large families. Child benefit helps those most in need. Paid direct to mothers, the benefit gives the family member who takes most responsibility for children some money of her own.

Because this benefit is paid to every family with children, rich and poor, it attracts the support of a broad political constituency that might not feel so warmly towards a means-tested benefit. Because the benefit is flat rate and untaxed, it does not deepen the poverty trap, or distort incentives to work. Child benefit gives expression to the general feeling that children are a good thing, and that those who have them deserve to have resources redistributed to them from those that do not.

Despite this, child benefit would scarcely be invented now if it did not exist already. Mrs Thatcher dislikes it because its universality wastes money on those who do not need it. She abhors the "churning" effect, whereby the same people can have money taxed away, then handed back in benefit. She is acutely aware of the cost: this year, child benefit and the one-parent addition to it will cost nearly £5 billion. A 1 per cent increase would cost the exchequer £35 million a year. With public spending under so much pressure, the language of priorities has become the religion of conservatism.

Yet Mrs Thatcher lives in the real world. Seven million families get the benefit, many of them middle-class Conservative supporters who see it as just return for their taxes. A powerful group within the Conservative party supports it, embracing not just wets, but traditional, family-oriented conservatives,

including (as Angela Rumbold demonstrated this week) right-wingers. Abolishing child benefit is not practical politics.

Nor, so close to an election, is merely freezing it an attractive option. After three years in which it has been held at £7.25, Mrs Thatcher's intervention in the current dispute between the Treasury and the social services department has marked the cracking of the ice. The solution which her government seems ready to announce is a modification to the scheme. In future, a higher level of benefit will be paid to the first child in every family.

As the first child costs the family most, this proposal has a certain logic. But the question is whether it is the optimum method to help those in need. David Willetts, of the Centre for Policy Studies, has proposed that the benefit should be higher not for first children, but for children under five. Their mothers find it hardest to go out to work. Should these women choose to remain at home during these early years, they should be given greater help by the state with the costs of that decision.

The CPS would like to abolish child benefit for the over-fives to pay for the increase. A less radical version, with a supplement for younger children, would be more popular. Instead of across-the-board rises, any more cash for families could be spent on a supplement payable to mothers with young children, modelled on one-parent family benefit.

The details of such a scheme need to be worked out. But the concept, at least, should appeal to the prime minister, if not this year, then for the Conservative manifesto.

DEGREASING WESTMINSTER'S POLE

On the grounds that "there is more to life than politics", Nigel Lawson is to leave the House of Commons at the next general election. Having enjoyed the responsibility of being Chancellor of the Exchequer for six years, the life of a non-executive backbencher clearly has little appeal.

Nobody should criticise him on that account. His threshold of boredom was always low and parliament would gain little of value from a backbencher whose heart was not at Westminster and who had tired with a job with unsocial hours and much tedium. If, when his days as an MP are done, Mr Lawson does not reject a peerage, the Lords could provide him with a dignified outlet for occasional declarations of global wisdom.

Yet his decision is symptomatic of aspects of current politics which are regrettable. The professionalisation of politics is at the heart of the matter. Of course, ministerial ambition was always the motive of most MPs. Only a few claimed never to aspire to be more than a dedicated backbencher. Yet the non-attainment of office was not necessarily seen as failure and ministers and backbenchers lived less apart than they do today.

Even a couple of decades ago, ministers mixed socially not only with each other but also with former ministers and senior backbenchers. Their ears were more to the ground at Westminster and, for Tories at least, in their

clubs. Now they are too busy for much social politics, other than the less enjoyable kind experienced at weekend constituency events. Forced to consult officials and advisers on the detail of policy-making, ministers have little energy for wider reflection and discussion. Only comfortless opposition allows such time.

The professionalisation of politics and the skills acquired by ministers in the practice of financial, economic and industrial oversight offers an easy (and recently much criticised) bridge for a profitable change of career, usually in the mid-50s. The rewards are such that the role of elder statesman on the backbenches of the Commons is comparatively unattractive.

Parliament is the worse for this. Politics should be more than just a job for ambitious young men. It should embrace the corridors of Westminster as well as those of Whitehall and the constituency. Good government requires the informal interchange that parliament offers.

Yet parliament must be capable of reforming itself to permit this interchange to occur. The absurd working hours, aimed at workaholic ministers and lawyer backbenchers, hopeless for family women, continue to impose an intense strain on MPs. As long as the Commons cannot reform itself, it not only cuts a dim figure in lecturing the nation; it also risks losing some of its best performers.

Measures to reduce divorce rate

From Canon Raymond Wilkinson

Sir, The Lord Chancellor has alerted the nation again to the extremely serious situation facing us by reason of the ever-higher divorce rate - with its consequent deleterious effects upon children and its huge cost to the Exchequer because of increased social services (report, October 18).

It is perhaps ironic that the process towards easier divorce began by the Church's 1970 report, *Putting Asunder*, and subsequently involving an astronomical number of man-hours from lawyers involved in divorce suits, should be called to a halt by our leading legal representative. The so-called "conciliation" clause in present legislation, inviting solicitors to suggest reconciliation, is often observed in the breach. Now we are told that "what we want... is a process that does not allow divorce to be easy, but makes it more rigorous by encouraging people to face the consequences".

Yes, indeed; for if ever chickens came home to roost, it is in the naive acceptance by the leadership of the established Church at that time that the concept of "breakdown of marriage" would lead to greater justice and happiness all round. In fact, the floodgates were opened. There has been an enormous increase in premature and unnecessary abandonment of vows once considered to be binding and lifelong.

There is a great need for reassessment of the Church's role in marriage. Quite simply, the established Church - still officiating at over 50 per cent of marriages in this country - has a great responsibility in preparing couples more adequately. Where this is the case, the results may be dramatic. They certainly need to be so, in a society where we are heading for a third of all marriages breaking down.

Prior to my retirement three years ago, I conducted over 5,000 weddings - latterly as the rector of a large West Midlands parish, from 1971 to 1987. For much of that latter time, a considerable team of voluntary "experts" from a concerned body of laity were involved in befriending and guiding engaged couples in preparation for married life. The meetings (additional to clergy preparation) involved local solicitors, bank managers, social workers and marriage guidance counsellors -

both in group meetings and for separate couples. This preparation, often spread over a year, was warmly welcomed by the engaged couples; and the guidance given was a proper use of the plethora of sympathetic and informed lay talent at the Church's disposal.

The courses led to sustained interest, to personal reassessment (even, on occasion, to postponement); but always to enlightenment and enhanced understanding of the greatest commitment we make in life.

This kind of preparation continues in that place with the 150 couples being married each year there; and there are signs that the same is happening elsewhere in other parishes.

I suggest that the wide adoption and availability of such guidance prior to both church and civil marriages is a pressing necessity if the Christian ideal of the family is to survive into the next century. Believe me, yours very sincerely, RAYMOND WILKINSON, 42 Coten End, Warwick, October 19.

From Mrs Elizabeth Hodder
Sir, The causes of marriage failure are never simple, but there is often one overriding factor which pushes people to contemplate divorce in preference to "staying together". This is the belief in the existence of a new and perfect partner, either in reality or in the imagination, with whom the divorcee can share a new and better life.

This belief is so often shattered as the recently-divorced face up to the harsh reality of any new relationship, with the further complications of stepchildren, financial competition from the previous family and the need to arrange and cope with weekend access visits to children.

In forcing couples to face up to their responsibilities towards their children before being granted a divorce might not also be worthwhile to require couples to see a snapshot of what can happen - through a government video or similar means - to their children and new family after divorce?

Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH HODDER (Founder, The National Stepfamily Association), Maris House, Maris Lane, Trumpington, Cambridge, October 19.

Education malaise

From the Reverend J. J. Knowles

Sir, Having listened to much of the recent conference rhetoric on education it strikes me that no political party is prepared to accept that the current malaise in state education is not the fault primarily of teachers, the national curriculum, Government or unions but of the social situation.

Any educationist knows that for a child to be able to learn well it needs a stable, secure, loving environment. Given that perhaps half of Britain's children have spent some time in a single-parent family, with all that entails, it is no wonder that our education system is in crisis.

So many teachers are not free to teach because they are firstly unpaid, unrecognized social work-

ers, having to boost children's self-confidence, showing them care and compassion before being able to pick up a piece of chalk.

It is pastoral rather than teaching skills which teachers are called upon to use in more and more classrooms and it is training in these skills which so few teachers have received. It is thus not surprising that teachers become depressed and disillusioned, exhausted and exasperated.

Neither the national curriculum nor higher salaries are the answer to the crisis in education. The renewal of society and family life is.

Yours sincerely, IAN KNOWLES (Chaplain), Quanton Hall School, 8 Radnor Road, Harrow, Middlesex, October 15.

Demise of reading?

From Professor John Radford

Sir, Mrs Perry (October 15) bemoans the influence of television, and says that the task of teachers is to teach children to become readers. Surely the task of teachers is to make children more effective users of information from all sources, of which television is one of the most important.

I am a book lover: I have acquired many hundreds and written a few. But the day of the printed book, which has been our staple source of information for 500 years, is now passing. Education must look forward, not back.

Yours faithfully, JOHN RADFORD, 38 Cephas Avenue, E1, October 16.

Air safety

From Captain Colin Seaman

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Cohen (October 11), states that he has assessed the case of gaining access to life jackets stored beneath the seats of civilian aircraft and casts doubt on their accessibility from both the position under the seat and from the sealed container.

On British Airways aircraft the life jacket is in a pouch, two inches behind the front of the seat cushion. It is therefore readily accessible to all except the very young or the infirm. The life jacket itself is in a container which is

sealed by a plastic tape which is removed by the lightest of pulls. The purpose of the tape is to readily identify any life jackets which may have been tampered with in flight.

If the accessibility of safety equipment were as your correspondent described, the Civil Aviation Authority would not certify the aircraft and British Airways would not fly it.

Yours faithfully, COLIN SEAMAN (Head of safety), British Airways, PO Box 10, Heathrow Airport (London), Hounslow, Middlesex, October 15.

Spanish park threat

From Mr Tam Dalyell, MP for Linlithgow (Labour)

Sir, Your correspondent, Roger Voss (October 17), performs a real service to those concerned with European wildlife by setting out the perils to Coto Doñana.

At the end of September I was privileged to spend two days in what is perhaps the most important wetland staging-post for British migratory birds in southern Europe. Mr Voss does not exaggerate the threat from potential hotels, producing demands that lower the water-table.

I was deeply impressed by the dedicated and expert Spanish

wardens and administration on the spot. Seeing three Spanish imperial eagles, European lynxes and a host of other animals and birds in their natural habitat was remarkable.

British Government and opinion and the European Commission ought to do everything possible to support the many concerned Spaniards who wish to protect their Doñana for posterity. Yours etc., TAM DALYELL, House of Commons.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Britain's 'neutrality' on Palestine

From Mr D. J. McCarthy

Sir, The wisdom of the timing of Mr Hurd's Middle East visit may be debatable. The case for his trying to move matters is stronger than you suggest.

You write (leading article, October 18): "That Britain was once involved in the politics of the Levant confers... no continuing responsibility for resolving its conflicts". Would you have felt so confident of your conclusion if you had written a little more frankly: "That Britain started the whole ghastly mess by opening a tranche of the Levant to a third party confers... no continuing responsibility...?"

You also overlook the fact that the Charter of the UN imposes special peacekeeping responsibilities on permanent members of the Security Council. You may regret that we have that status. But so long as we have it, do you advocate neglecting the responsibilities it carries?

Coincidentally, you also publish (October 18) two letters on the key Resolution 242. The President of the Board of Deputies points out that George Brown confirmed that the obligation of withdrawal depended on a permanent settlement lasting in 242's other requirements. Fair enough. The deal was always to be occupied territory for peace. It would be a great help if Mr Shamir declared that Israel would withdraw from occupied territories if the rest of the resolution were made effective. Will Mr Shamir do that?

Mr Frumhan, also noting the other requirements of 242, revives the somewhat weary semantic argument over "the" territories. It becomes necessary to repeat old facts. Lord Caradon, who after all was the negotiator in New York, consistently maintained that a deliberate factor in omitting the definite article in the English text was to preclude the reimposition of absurd minor anomalies created by the accidents of standstill positions in 1948/9.

The UN has five official, and equally authoritative, languages. I do not know about the Chinese text. Russian lacks definite articles. The French and Spanish texts both contain the definite article. The Caradon point remains the one that makes sense.

Yours truly, D. J. MCCARTHY, Church Farmhouse, Sudbourne, Woodbridge, Suffolk, October 18.

Net book agreement

From Mr John Rivett

Sir, You stated (leading article, October 15) that the abolition of the net book agreement would close some shops; yes, but what you don't say is that a considerable number of these shops are out in the country areas, giving (in the main) an excellent service (with the NBA) to the local community, which would mean bookbuyers having to travel some distance to the nearest bookshop.

Without the NBA it is my firm belief that within a few years books would be more expensive and there would be fewer well stocked local bookshops.

Yours sincerely, JOHN RIVETT, The Book Shop, 20 High Street, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, October 16.

From Mr Samuel Carr
Sir, As you point out in your leader books nowadays are seldom published with the certainty of loss. Some projects are seen as

Insurance and weather

From Mr D. B. Morris

Sir, Mr Victor Rance (October 13) states that "with most of the experts seemingly agreed that the weather patterns are changing for the worse... it would be irresponsible of insurance companies not to consider whether their premium levels are adequate".

It would be even more irresponsible to take decisions before the facts are known. The majority of experts are only agreed that some global warming will probably take place over the next 20 to 50 years.

Their computer models are, at present, unable to forecast the weather patterns that will result over Europe let alone over a region in the UK for more than a week ahead.

I am hoping that southern England will become like southern France and expect my insurance premiums to reflect the fact - when it happens.

Yours sincerely, D. B. MORRIS, 21 Haddon Court, Shakespeare Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, October 15.

From Mr Richard Lund

Sir, Having visited the Coto Doñana earlier this year I would warmly support Mr Voss's letter and the RSPB efforts to preserve this area.

The beautiful wild camels which inhabit the parkland would also presumably vanish in the face of the developers. The question as to whether these are descendants of those abandoned by the Moors or escaped from David Lean's set for *Lawrence of Arabia* remains an enigma.

Yours sincerely, RICHARD LUND, 5 Spencer Park, SW18, October 17.

From Professor Musa Mazzawi

Sir, The statement made by the Foreign Secretary (report, October 18) after the Palestinians' delegation announced their refusal to meet him serves only to confirm the justification for their decision. There may be argument about what he said or meant by what he said at a private meeting with members of the Israeli Knesset, but what he subsequently did say was: "We do not argue for a separate Palestinian state. Equally we do not oppose it if this were the result agreed by the parties".

But everybody knows - because the Israeli government has seized every opportunity to emphasize the point - that Israel is irrevocably opposed to the idea of a separate Palestinian state. So if for Britain such a state can come about only as a result of negotiations with the Israelis then clearly the Israelis are being allowed a veto on the whole idea.

Quite why the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination - which Britain claims to support in principle - should not mean what it has meant in every other case in modern history, namely an independent and sovereign state of their own, is something which Palestinians like myself cannot comprehend. Equally difficult to accept is why the fulfilment of the aspirations of the Palestinians should be dependent on the tender mercies of their oppressors.

There are scores of resolutions of the United Nations, going back to 1947, which recognize the absolute and unconditional rights of the Palestinians. These were not expressly or by implication made dependent on the consent of Israel. One wonders whether her Majesty's Government would accept that the recent Security Council resolution on the sending of a mission to investigate the Jerusalem incidents should similarly be shelved because of Israel's rejection of it.

Perhaps the most unpalatable thing for the Palestinian people in all this is that Britain - which started the misfortunes of the Palestinian people by giving the Zionist movement the Balfour Declaration, should profess impartiality and abandon forthrightness at this stage of the conflict.

Who was it who said that "the hottest place in hell is reserved for those who in time of moral crisis say they are neutral"? Yours faithfully, MUSA MAZZAWI, 2 Paper Buildings, Temple, EC4.

marginally more profitable than others. The more likely a book is to lose its investment, the less probable will be its chances of publication.

It is most often the works of literary originality or academic scholarship which are regarded as being on the wrong side of the margin.

Yours etc, SAMUEL CARR, 46 Paulsons Square, SW3, October 15.

Turning a phrase

From Mr C. F. L. Jones

Sir, What, I wonder, would be the equivalent in French, Italian, or any other civilised language, to the salutation at the beginning of a letter I have recently received in reply to an inquiry about buying electricity shares? The letter began: "Dear London Electricity Referant".

Yours faithfully, C. F. L. JONES, 26 Cranford Close, Cottenham Park Road, Wimbledon, SW20

Countryside access

From the Deputy Director of the Ramblers' Association

Sir, If the campaign for access to the countryside had been won over 50 years ago, as Mr Osborne suggests (October 15), we should today have public access over all 18 of the grouse moors in the Peak District. Britain's most visited national park.

Instead we have, on some of those moors, "private" signs, including those recently erected by the national park authority on land owned by the recently-privatised Yorkshire Water, intended to keep the public off on every day of the year. Elsewhere a small group of landowners seek to frustrate widely-agreed proposals for a legal right of access to common land.

Members of the public who take delight in wandering freely over open, uncultivated countryside will not consider the Ramblers' Association's campaign to be misguided.

Yours faithfully, JOHN TREVELYAN, Deputy Director, The Ramblers' Association, 1/5 Wandsworth Road, SW8.

Age concern

From Mr Hew Watt

Sir, The following government ministers are quoted in reports in today's *Times* (October 18): Douglas Hurd (p1), John MacGregor (p1), Michael Howard (p2), Lord Mackay (p4), Tom King (p7), Malcolm Rifkind (p9), John Gummer (p13), John Major (p26). Only Lady Blatch (p1) has her age quoted. Should not it be all or nothing?

Yours faithfully, HEW WATT (aged 75), Wingfield Cottage, Prince Charles Avenue, Orsett, Grays, Essex.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 23: The President of the Italian Republic arrived today on a State Visit to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, accompanied by the Italian Ambassador, welcomed His Excellency on behalf of the Queen at Gatwick Airport, London.

The President, accompanied by The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, travelled by Royal Train to Victoria Railway Station.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, with the Princess of Wales, met The President of the Italian Republic at Victoria Railway Station.

His Excellency, accompanied by Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, drove in a Carriage Procession to Buckingham Palace with a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry.

Gun Salutes were fired in Green Park by The King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery and from the Tower of London by the Honourable Artillery Company.

Guards of Honour were provided at Gatwick Airport, London by The Queen's Colour Squadron of the Royal Air Force, at Victoria Railway Station by 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards and at Buckingham Palace by The Queen's Guard found by 2nd Battalion, Grenadier Guards.

The President of the Italian Republic this afternoon drove to Westminster Abbey where His Excellency laid a Wreath on the Grave of the Unknown Warrior.

Afterwards, at St. James's Palace, The President of the Italian Republic received an Address of Welcome by the Lord Mayor and Councillors of the City of Westminster.

The President then planned a tree in St. James's Park and was received by the Lord Mayor of Westminster (Councillor Dr. David Avery).

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh gave a State Banquet this evening in honour of the President of the Italian Republic at which The Prince of Wales, The Prince Edward, The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke and Duchess of Kent, Prince and Princess Michael of Kent and Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy and the Hon. Sir Angus Ogilvy were present.

The following were invited: Suite of the President of the Italian Republic.

His Excellency Onorevole Gianni De Michelis (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Senator Claudio Vitalone (Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Ambassador Sergio Bertinieri (Secretary-General, Presidency of the Republic), Ambassador Bruno Botto (Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Ambassador Franco Ferretti (Head of Protocol of the Italian Republic), Ambassador Giuseppe Baldacci (Chief of Cabinet of the Minister for Foreign Affairs), Ambassador Giovanni Dominedo (Diplomatic Adviser to the President), Signor Alessandro Vaciago (Cultural and Scientific Adviser to the President), Signor Enzo Mosino (Internal Affairs Adviser to the President), Signor Alfredo Masala (Chief of Cabinet of the President), General Carlo Jean (Military Adviser to the President), Signor Ludovico Ortona (Press Adviser to the President).

Specially attached in attendance upon the President of the Italian Republic: The Lord Somerville (Lord in Waiting), Sir Stephen Egerton (British Ambassador at Rome) and Lady Egerton and Wing Commander David Walker (Equerry in Waiting), Ambassadors and High Commissioners.

His Excellency the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia and Madame

Almanqour, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Italian Republic and Signora Bianchi, His Excellency the Apostolic Pro Nuncio, His Excellency the High Commissioner for Belize and Lady Cain, His Excellency the Ambassador of Austria and Frau Magrutsch, His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Republic of Singapore and Mrs. Aziz, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Mrs. Shaker, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and Baroness von Richthofen, His Excellency the Ambassador of Switzerland and Madame Muhlen, His Excellency the Ambassador of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and Mrs. Dudova, His Excellency the Ambassador of Greece and Madame Papoulas, Members of the Italian Embassy.

Signor Livio Muzi-Falconi (Minister-Counsellor), Signor Stefano Ronca (Counsellor), The Cabinet.

The Lord Chancellor and the Lady Justice of Appeal, the Prime Minister and Mr. Denis Thatcher, the Lord President of the Council and Lady Howe, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Hon. Mrs. Douglas Hurd, the Secretary of State for Social Security and Mrs. Newton and the Secretary of State for the Environment and Mrs. Patten.

The Right Hon. the Speaker and Mrs. Weatherill, the Viscount and Viscountess Norwich, the Viscount and Viscountess Blakenham, Maria Carmela Viscountess Hambleden, the Lord and Lady Hastings, the Lord and Lady Russell of Liverpool, the Lord and Lady Thorneycroft, the Hon. Mrs. Eyles and Mr. Neil Eyles, the Lord and Lady Cledwyn of Penrhos, the Lord Chief Justice of England and the Lady Lane, the Lord and Lady Field Marshal the Lord and Lady Bramall, the Lord and Lady Jemima, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, the Right Hon. James Molyneux, M.P., the Right Hon. Paddy Ashdown, M.P. and Mrs. Ashdown, the Right Hon. Robin and Mrs. Leigh-Pemberton, Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir David and Lady Craig, Admiral Sir Alan and Lady Campbell, Sir Patrick and Lady Wright, Derek and Lady Thomas, Sir Hugh Rossi, M.P. and Lady Rossi, Sir David and Lady Wilson, Sir Dennis Walters, M.P. and Lady Walters, Dr. Cesare Geronzi, Signor Alessandro Vattani, Signor Claudio Bay Rossi, Signor Sandro Gori, Signor Claudio Bisogniero, General-General and Mrs. Simon Cooper, Professor Patrick Boyde, Mr. and Mrs. David Gentleman, Miss Jane Glover, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hambro, Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Jones, Professor and Mrs. Frederic Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Denis Mack Smith, Mr. Christopher Seton-Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Wyld.

The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon received members of the Italian Cabinet at Buckingham Palace.

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By command of The Queen, the Viscountess Boyle (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this morning upon the arrival of The Amir of the State of Kuwait and welcomed His Highness on behalf of Her Majesty.

Mrs. Robert de Pass has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

YORK HOUSE
The Duke of Kent, President, this afternoon toured the new extension to the King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers, Beaufort Street, London W1 and then presided at the Council Meeting.

Commander Roger Walker RN was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements
The Queen will visit 20 Squadron RCT (Royal Baggage Train) at Regents Park Barracks at 11.30.

Princess Margaret will plant a tree for the Westminster and Pimlico Tree Trust at Marlborough Gate at 6.30, in honour of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's 90th birthday, and attend a reception afterwards at Sotheby's.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester, Honorary President of King's College Hospital, will open the Children Nationwide regional neonatal unit at the hospital at 2.30.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will visit the Lion of Venice exhibition at the British Museum at 4.00.

The Duchess of Kent will visit the Merseyside Council for Voluntary Service, Liverpool, at 11.30; will open the Amanda Jane Turner scanner suite at Tameside General Hospital, Ashton under Lyne, at 2.30; and, as Patron of the Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, Manchester, will visit the hospital's new CT scanning facilities at 3.45.

Princess Alexandra will attend a gala concert by the VanBrugh String Quartet, being arranged by the London International String Quartet competition, at St. James's Palace at 6.45.

Birthdays today
Sir Geoffrey Bateman, otiaryngologist, 84; Mr Phil Bennett, rugby player, 42; Signor Luciano Berio, composer, 69; Miss Lesley Bidstrup, industrial medical consultant, 74; Sir John Blolegh, civil servant, 60; Rear-Admiral J.H. Carill, former secretary, Engineering Council, 65; Mr David Cope, master, Marlborough College, 66; Baroness Dacre, 61; Sir Robin Day, broadcaster, 67; Mr Frank Delaney, broadcaster, 48; Captain T.R. Dunne, Lord Lieutenant of Hereford and Worcester, 57; The Earl of Gainsborough, 67; Mr Peter Gellibor, conduc-

tor, 78; Colonel Sir John Gilmour, former Lord Lieutenant of Fife, 78; Air Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, 52; Sir Ralph Halpern, chairman and chief executive, Burton Group, 52; Mr Wally Herbert, explorer, 56; Professor Dame Elizabeth Hughes, professor of Slavonic studies, 90; Miss Sena Jurinic, opera singer, 69; Sir Terence Morrison-Scott, former director, Science Museum and Natural History Museum, 82; Sir Alan Neale, civil servant, 72; Sir Fred Pontin, founder Pontin's, 84; Professor W. Lindford Roberts, psychiatrist, 76; Sir Robert Sainsbury, joint president, J. Sainsbury, 84; the Marquess of Salisbury, 74; Mr Bill Wyman, Rolling Stones' guitarist, 54.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Sir James Macintosh, philosopher, Aldourne, Highland, 1765; Sir Moses Montefiore, philanthropist, Leghorn, 1774; Eugene Fromentin, painter and novelist, La Rochelle, 1820; Dame Sybil Thorndike, actress, Gainsborough, Lincs, 1882.

DEATHS: Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry VIII, Hampton Court, 1537; Tycho Brahe, astronomer, Prague, 1601; Pierre Gassendi, scientist, Paris, 1655; Alessandro Scarlatti, composer, Naples, 1723; Peter Pchaikovsky, composer, Leningrad, 1893; Sir Albert Sassoon, philanthropist, Brighton, 1896; Pierre de Chavanne, mural painter, Paris, 1898; Vidkun Quisling, Norwegian traitor, executed, Oslo, 1945; Susan Lawrence, Labour minister 1929, London, 1949; Franz Lohr, composer, Bad Ischl, Austria, 1948; George Edward Moore, philosopher, Cambridge, 1958; Edward Burna, painter, 1976.

James I was proclaimed king of "England, Scotland, France and Ireland", 1604. The United Nations was formally established, 1945.

OBITUARIES

BERTHOLD LUBETKIN

Berthold Lubetkin, architect, died yesterday aged 88. He was born in Tiflis, Georgia, on December 14, 1901.

DURING the 1930s Berthold Lubetkin was one of the most influential personalities among the avant garde of British architecture. For the generations that followed, however, he was little more than a figure of legend. He retired altogether from the profession, for reasons even his close friends never fully understood, at the age of 52 and thereafter became something of a recluse.

Lubetkin's position in the history of modern English architecture is nevertheless unique. He studied architecture in Moscow and then in Paris under Auguste Perret. From the latter no doubt he acquired the rigorous sense of architectural form that was notable in all his work. After practising briefly in Russia (and gaining first prize in the 1925 competition for the Urals Polytechnic), he returned to Paris and became for a time a partner with Jean Ginsberg.

In 1930 he moved to England and a couple of years later he formed, with half-a-dozen young architects who had just qualified from the Architectural Association in London, a group which called itself Tecton. Under Lubetkin's leadership the group soon made its mark, and during the early 1930s was responsible for most of the buildings, other than private houses, erected in England in the revolutionary style of architecture then flourishing on the Continent. They included the Highpoint flats at Highgate (first block, 1935; second block added in 1938), the Gorilla House (1934) and the Penguin Pool (1935) at the London Zoo and a health centre (1938) for the London borough of Finsbury.

The two zoo buildings evoked an immediate response from the public and did much to show that modern functional design was capable also of gaiety. Tecton went on to design other zoo buildings at Whipsnade and Dudley. The group went at the same time a training ground for many of the more forward-looking architects of the next generation. Sir Denys Lasdun, for example, worked for Tecton and from 1938 became for a time one of the partners.

The group was dispersed during the second world war and Lubetkin became a farmer in Gloucestershire—a genuine working farmer who spent long hours on the driving-seat of a tractor. He managed a large farm, in a spirit of constant inquiry into the

validity of accepted methods, with little help but that of his wife Margaret (née Church, whom he had married in 1936 when she was a young architect working in the Tecton office). By her he had a son and a daughter.

The Lubetkin farm had one remarkable feature in the early days of the war. Through his connection with Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, secretary of the London Zoological Society, for whom just before the war Tecton had built a house on the downs near Whipsnade, Lubetkin and his wife were asked to give a temporary home to a number of rare animals and birds that the zoo was anxious to evacuate from London. No-one who visited the farm at that time will forget the surprising sight of exotic animals

peeking over the stable-doors of traditional Cotswold farm buildings and of strangely-plumed birds pecking about in the farmyard among the English ducks and poultry.

After the war Lubetkin resumed architectural practice in London in partnership with Skinner (one of the original Tecton group) and Bailey. They designed a quantity of housing for Finsbury, which showed a strong sense of social as well as architectural responsibility, but more of the formalism and less of the aesthetic vitality of Tecton's pre-war work. In 1948 Lubetkin was appointed architect-planner of one of the post-war new towns: Peterlee in the coal-mining area of County Durham. He produced an ambitious master-plan, very dif-

ferent from the suburban-type plans of the other new towns, with high buildings dominating a compactly-planned centre, but it was in advance of its time and after the whole project had been the subject of a succession of political and economic disputes, the plan was finally rejected. Lubetkin thereupon resigned.

It was soon after this that he decided to give up architectural practice. He retired to his farm in the Cotswolds where he led a secluded life. In 1968, because of his wife's health, he moved to a flat at Clifton, near the Avon gorge, and only emerged briefly from his self-sought obscurity to play a leading part in the successful campaign to save the gorge from disfigurement by a monstrous hotel in 1971.

Lubetkin, as he was simply called by his friends for he seldom used his baptismal name of Toek, was a man of complex character. Those who could not get on with him thought him difficult and devious. Even those closest to him did not always fathom his motivations. Yet he was a friend who inspired affection, and a fascinating companion with a distinguished analytical intellect that ranged widely over political and historical as well as architectural subjects. He was always seeking the theory behind the practice and the philosophy behind the theory. His talk was lightened by humour and he had a way of leaving his listeners with a rare and exciting sense of illumination.

In 1978 Lubetkin's wife died after a long illness. They had been very close and since his retirement had enjoyed little company but each other's. The problems this loss created were aggravated by a motor accident which left him severely crippled. Nevertheless when he was awarded the RIBA's Royal Gold Medal in 1982 he travelled to London and at the presentation ceremony gave a moving and able address. In 1985 he defended some of the buildings attacked by the Prince of Wales. Two years later he managed the journey to London to attend a ceremony at the London Zoo to mark the restoration of his Penguin Pool but his public appearances after that were very few.

The little Lubetkin built revealed an architect of unusual sensibility. During his years of retirement he was said to have spent much time writing, but he published nothing. If what he wrote ever emerged—his intentions remained mysterious to the last—it will almost certainly prove to have been worth waiting for.

NORMAN BUCHAN
Norman Findlay Buchan, Labour MP for Paisley South, died yesterday aged 67. He was born in Helmsdale, Sutherlandshire, on October 27, 1922.

NORMAN Buchan's somewhat frail appearance concealed strong convictions which never weakened. Even during the years of the Kinnoch ascendancy his belief in old-time socialism remained intact. But he was much more than just a doctrinaire left-winger of the Tribune school.

He was a poet as well as a practising politician. He was a teacher, a journalist, a noted authority on Scottish folk-songs and, above all, a champion of the arts. He delighted in argument and had a mordant wit; his opponents were frequently disarmed by his capacity for self-mockery. He was among the best-liked members of the Parliamentary Labour Party for more than a quarter of a century. He never rose above the lower reaches of government, however. One

reason was his refusal to make any of the compromises sometimes necessary in politics. With him, too, there was always the lurking prospect of resignation. His attitude was summed up by his decision to abstain in the famous Denis Healey-Tony Benn contest for Labour's deputy leadership in 1981. He gave his reason: "My brain turned against Healey." This comment, as honest as it was humorous, alienated his party's hard left and its moderate right.

Buchan, son of a minor civil servant, went from grammar school to Glasgow University, where he began his political career by joining the Communist Party. After war service in tanks in North Africa, Sicily and Italy—he worked in his university's extra-mural department before teaching at Rutherglen Academy.

By the 1950s he was becoming increasingly disillusioned by the rigidity of communism and the Soviet invasion of Hungary confirmed his decision to leave the party. He joined Labour in 1957 and almost at once became involved in the nuclear disarmament movement. He was obvious parliamentary material and entered the Commons for West Renfrewshire in the Labour victory of 1964. During the first Wilson years his actions were predictable—against US involvement in Vietnam, against the prices and incomes policy and against any compromise with Ian Smith in Rhodesia. Wil-

son had a way of dealing with his critics, however, and in 1967 Buchan was appointed Under Secretary at the Scottish Office, a post he held until Labour lost the 1970 election.

During the Heath government Buchan was opposition spokesman for agriculture, and when Labour won the first of the two elections in 1974 he was made Minister of State for Agriculture. Within months, though, he was involved in a row over the Common Market and resigned. He was never to

hold office again. After Michael Foot, his old Tribune Group colleague, was elected Labour leader in 1980, Buchan became agriculture spokesman once more, having had a spell as a spokesman on social security. When Foot stepped down Buchan was a prominent supporter of Neil Kinnock for the leadership, and Kinnock appointed him spokesman for the arts, one of his life's abiding interests. But this ended after a dispute with Kinnock, who decided to leave broadcasting as a Home Office responsibility rather than include it in a new arts and media ministry. Buchan was typically unimpressed by this and continued to make powerful contributions to debates on broadcasting, arguing passionately for public service broadcasting, and minority cultural interests. He had a majority of 15,785 in his Paisley South constituency in 1987.

He is survived by his wife Janey, a formidable member of the European Parliament after she was elected to Strasbourg in 1979, and their son.



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He was a poet as well as a practising politician. He was a teacher, a journalist, a noted authority on Scottish folk-songs and, above all, a champion of the arts. He delighted in argument and had a mordant wit; his opponents were frequently disarmed by his capacity for self-mockery. He was among the best-liked members of the Parliamentary Labour Party for more than a quarter of a century. He never rose above the lower reaches of government, however. One

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Buchan, son of a minor civil servant, went from grammar school to Glasgow University, where he began his political career by joining the Communist Party. After war service in tanks in North Africa, Sicily and Italy—he worked in his university's extra-mural department before teaching at Rutherglen Academy.

By the 1950s he was becoming increasingly disillusioned by the rigidity of communism and the Soviet invasion of Hungary confirmed his decision to leave the party. He joined Labour in 1957 and almost at once became involved in the nuclear disarmament movement. He was obvious parliamentary material and entered the Commons for West Renfrewshire in the Labour victory of 1964. During the first Wilson years his actions were predictable—against US involvement in Vietnam, against the prices and incomes policy and against any compromise with Ian Smith in Rhodesia. Wil-

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He is survived by his wife Janey, a formidable member of the European Parliament after she was elected to Strasbourg in 1979, and their son.

Marriages
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Mr R.J. Taylor and Miss S.J. Hiscocks. The engagement is announced between Rupert, son of Mr J.A. Taylor, of Welford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, and Mrs B.G. Stroud, of Woodchurch, Kent, and Susanna, daughter of Mr and Mrs W.B. Hiscocks, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire.

Mr A.K.N. Terry and Miss L.A. Hickman. The engagement is announced between Anthony, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter N.L. Terry, of Bransbury, York, and Lucinda, daughter of Major Tom Hickman, of London SW2, and Mrs William Loyd, of Eynsham, Oxfordshire.

ferent from the suburban-type plans of the other new towns, with high buildings dominating a compactly-planned centre, but it was in advance of its time and after the whole project had been the subject of a succession of political and economic disputes, the plan was finally rejected. Lubetkin thereupon resigned.

It was soon after this that he decided to give up architectural practice. He retired to his farm in the Cotswolds where he led a secluded life. In 1968, because of his wife's health, he moved to a flat at Clifton, near the Avon gorge, and only emerged briefly from his self-sought obscurity to play a leading part in the successful campaign to save the gorge from disfigurement by a monstrous hotel in 1971.

Lubetkin, as he was simply called by his friends for he seldom used his baptismal name of Toek, was a man of complex character. Those who could not get on with him thought him difficult and devious. Even those closest to him did not always fathom his motivations. Yet he was a friend who inspired affection, and a fascinating companion with a distinguished analytical intellect that ranged widely over political and historical as well as architectural subjects. He was always seeking the theory behind the practice and the philosophy behind the theory. His talk was lightened by humour and he had a way of leaving his listeners with a rare and exciting sense of illumination.

In 1978 Lubetkin's wife died after a long illness. They had been very close and since his retirement had enjoyed little company but each other's. The problems this loss created were aggravated by a motor accident which left him severely crippled. Nevertheless when he was awarded the RIBA's Royal Gold Medal in 1982 he travelled to London and at the presentation ceremony gave a moving and able address. In 1985 he defended some of the buildings attacked by the Prince of Wales. Two years later he managed the journey to London to attend a ceremony at the London Zoo to mark the restoration of his Penguin Pool but his public appearances after that were very few.

The little Lubetkin built revealed an architect of unusual sensibility. During his years of retirement he was said to have spent much time writing, but he published nothing. If what he wrote ever emerged—his intentions remained mysterious to the last—it will almost certainly prove to have been worth waiting for.

NORMAN BUCHAN
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CREATIVE, MEDIA & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS



BBC Training Schemes 1991

The BBC wants to attract the brightest and most creative people to its training schemes for 1991. Each scheme is for a different part of the BBC but applicants may apply for more than one scheme. Applicants should be able to demonstrate an informed interest and enthusiasm for the area for which they are applying and should have a broad educational background usually to degree or equivalent standard and/or journalistic ability. Competition is fierce so applicants have to be good.

Television Production Trainees

BBC Television is looking for people with sharp, original minds, an excellent degree and/or clear journalistic ability and experience, combined with a broad range of informed interests, creative flair and fresh ideas to work mainly in the factual programme areas. Traditional academic background and success are less important than an awareness of the world and of the varieties of communities, tastes and beliefs within Britain. We expect many of them will become future producers of programmes such as *40 Minutes*, *Watchdog*, *Tomorrow's World*, *Newsnight*, *The Late Show*, *Heart of the Matter*, *Blue Peter*, *Grandstand*, *Def 11*, *Short Circuit* and *Advice Shop*. There are also a limited number of opportunities to progress to Drama and Light Entertainment.

We are offering about 10 people a two year training programme starting in September 1991, consisting of four weeks' formal instruction leading to working experience on a number of programmes for the rest of the time. Trainees will have to generate programme ideas and have the visual and creative skills to argue their merits within a production team. They need to be able to demonstrate a willingness and effective practical ability to discover the information, people and locations which are the essential ingredients of any programme.

Payment will be in the region of £13,000 p.a. in the first year

(Ref. 2803/1P)

Network Radio Production Trainees

This could be the scheme for you:

- if you're an enthusiastic listener to BBC network radio's speech programmes - and think you can do better;
- if you think radio's the best medium with the biggest potential;
- if you have plenty of ideas for programmes and you want to inject a bit of danger into Radio 4 (and even Radio 3).

After formal training and up to two years of working attachments you'll be eminently well qualified to become a fully fledged producer of programmes like *Start the Week*, *Third Ear*, *Science Now*, *Kalidoscope*, *Face the Facts*, *Loose Ends* or *Woman's Hour*. You'll need to be energetic and innovative, and be able to communicate easily verbally and in writing. You'll need to be fascinated by people and the world about you - much more important than holding a university degree.

Applications from those with disabilities, or from black or Asian people are particularly welcome, as they are under-represented in network radio production.

The initial salary will be £12,308, plus an allowance of £776, and is reviewed at the end of the first year.

The information is also available on a short cassette for visually handicapped candidates.

(Ref. 2804/1P)

World Service Production Trainees

The World Service broadcasts in 38 languages including the World Service in English. News and Current Affairs are the heart of the operation but we also produce features, drama, sport, music and other specialist programmes. If you want to work in an exciting international environment, we're looking for people with political awareness and sensitivity, overseas work experience and specialist knowledge of another part of the world, an informed interest in international affairs, writing ability and the capacity to generate ideas and turn them into effective programmes for international audiences. It is important that candidates should have listened to our output and be prepared to discuss both it and the news of the day.

The initial salary will be £12,308, plus an allowance of £776, and is reviewed at the end of the first year.

(Ref. 2805/1P)

Details of each scheme, including length (usually 2 years) will be provided upon application.

For application form write (quote appropriate ref.) to BBC Corporate Recruitment Services, London W1A 1AA or telephone 071-927 5799.

Requests for application forms must be received before Monday 18th November 1990.

Application forms to be returned by 30th November 1990.

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

ADVERTISING SALES - A £50,000 PA CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR AMBITIOUS PEOPLE

We are one of the UK's largest publishing groups and a leader in the field of Business, Financial and Technology magazines.

Our successful expansion programme has created new opportunities for advertising sales executives.

Clear thinking, tenacious and well spoken people can expect to achieve earnings of £50,000+ pa.

If you have the confidence and communication skills to deal with international clients by telephone then please call Philip Armstrong on 071-240-1515.



So where has talent, ambition and hard work got you so far?

Allied Dunbar - The Financial Planning Group - are expanding in these areas and are looking for intelligent and professionally minded people between 25 and 35 to market their range of financial services.

If you have ever wondered whether a career in sales or marketing would suit you, this is your opportunity to find out. We would like to invite you to attend a meeting to be held shortly, which would discuss and explain the opportunities available within the group and also - most importantly - offer a COMPREHENSIVE ADVERTISING CAREER EVALUATION exercise. We have for many years provided ourselves in our ability to select talent from outside the financial services industry and to develop very successful Financial Planning Consultants from those who have had no experience of marketing in the past.

Please write with brief C.V. to: L. Dellow, Allied Dunbar House, South Place Office Campus, Eborac Way, Barchinwood, Herts WD06 1PH or telephone North - John Burrell 0274 729721 South - John Burrell 0274 729721 Telex Valley/Oxfordshire - Paul Spear 0734 584627 West - Barbara Hamilton 0625 36660 North London/Essex/Essex - Laura Stoddart 081 505 1000



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An opportunity to participate in the growth of a newly formed company in Chalk Farm specialising in the expanding health care sector. The candidate is versatile, enthusiastic, practical, well-organised, and with experience in devising, planning and staging conferences and exhibitions.

Salary circa £16,000 negotiable.

Telephone (071) 722 9272.

INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY 18K + BONUS

Has an excellent opportunity for an innovative professional with a university degree, at least three years' business experience and a marketing orientation.

A prestigious Management Consultancy are looking for an articulate communicator to join their Direct Marketing Team in London. The candidate selected can play a significant role in our expansion to the continent in the process of arranging presentations with executive decision makers. If you are to be successful in this position, your knowledge of current business affairs and structures and the ability to communicate comfortably on the telephone to business leaders will be critical.

There will be opportunities to develop experience and expertise in many other areas of direct marketing with excellent prospects for career development in a challenging environment. You will be a team player in a strong culture which consists of individuals aligned in their mission and totally dedicated to continuing excellence.

This is an immediate opportunity, so if you have the ability and the desire to be successful in this role, please forward your C.V. to: PO Box No. 1696.

Articulate, literate and numerate

RECENT GRADUATE

required for both sales and marketing within this long established trade publishing house. Experience is not necessary for this position; training both in and out of house will be provided.

If you are interested, send your CV to Nick May. No agencies.

Salary £12,000 pa plus bonus.



newman books limited

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Telephone 0(71)-973 6402 Fax 0(71)-233 5057

THEATRE ROYAL & OPERA HOUSE

We are entering an exciting new phase in the theatre's development and now need the services of a

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

to complete the management team.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate a track record of successful fund-raising, not necessarily in Theatre (though it is important to have an understanding for the problems facing arts organisations and a sympathy for our aims and objectives).

Ideally, experience in marketing planning is also required.

Salary is open to negotiation but is expected to be in the region of £12k - £14k plus a percentage of funds raised.

It is anticipated that interviews will take place during the last week of October.

For further details please send S.A.E. to The Administrator, Theatre Royal and Opera House, Drury Lane, Wokingham, West Yorkshire WF1 2TE.

TWO TRAINEE ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

required for busy tourism marketing company in SW11 (nearest station Chiswick Junction) mainline, aged 22+. £9,500-£11,000. Genuine career opportunity - must be able to work as part of a team and handle own correspondence. Secretarial background preferred (short-hand a must for one position). If you respond well to a challenge, send cv to: Jacqui Wilkinson, Destination Marketing Ltd, Reference T177, 2 Grosvenor Row, Fleet Street, York Place, London, SW11 3TW. No agencies need apply.

A GREAT NEW CITY CAREER

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Mirabella, the exciting new fashion magazine is looking to expand its sales teams and create a position for someone who has 2 - 3 years' experience in selling direct to fashion clients at all levels. A cheery and tenacious personality, large portfolio of client contacts and the desire to be involved in this exciting launch are prerequisites of suitability for this post.

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If you are interested, please contact quoting ref. T/MIRA:

Sally Coker
Personnel Director
Murdoch Magazines
8 - 10 Haymarket
London SW1Y 4BP
071 839 8272

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We are seeking at least five years senior experience in the communications sector together with experience of working with, or within a development agency. First class communication skills together with the ability to motivate and manage creative people are essential.

Salary package £22,000 - other benefits include contributory pension scheme and life assurance.

Please send full CV to The Personnel Department, ActionAid, Tapscott Road, Chert, Somerset TA20 2AB, by Friday, 9 November.

ActionAid - a charity working with children, families and communities to improve the quality of life in some of the poorest parts of the world.

ActionAid aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

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needs a

SENIOR INVIGILATOR

for its small in-gallery information/security team. The vacancy will suit a mature communicator who will be responsible for helping visitors, covering security, liaising with other museum staff, presentation standards and co-ordinating the team. Regular weekend working is essential.

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CVs to Barry Mason, Design Museum, Botlers Wharf, London SE1 2YD by 15th October 1990.

Phone: 071-403 6933 for more information.

TELEFORCE

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London, c£25,000 pa

The Romanian Orphanage Trust wishes to appoint an Appeals Director who will collaborate and lead the Appeals Director of the Trust who will raise a series of appeals to support the Trust's activities in Romania. The Appeals Director will be responsible for the development, design and delivery of the appeals and will be responsible for the overall management of the appeals process.

Send brief application with CV to:

The Chief Executive, Romanian Orphanage Trust, 22 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4A 3DF

Closing date: 1st November

barnard marcus

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Royal

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Next year the Institute will begin a phase of major redevelopment in close co-operation with a developer on its unique site in Kensington High Street. The challenge is to ensure that the new building will enhance the facilities and resources necessary to project the Institute's cultural and educational mission.

Working in the House of Marketing and Publicity and closely with education staff, the successful candidate will be expected to promote and maintain a high profile for the Institute during its development phase and in preparation for its return as a major visitor attraction. Duties include research for and preparation of press releases, management of media contacts, strategic planning, and evaluation of publicity materials.

Candidates should have at least 3 years experience in the field; have initiative, imagination and a proven track record with first class communication and presentation skills.

Salary is the range of £11,000 to £14,000 + performance related pay and bonus scheme; non-compulsory pension scheme; relocation package.

For further information and application form contact Henry Hughes, Commonwealth Institute, Commonwealth High Street, London W8 5AE. Tel: 071-235 4200 (ext. 1770).

Closing date: 31 October 1990.

The Institute will be an equal opportunities employer.

Personal interview date: 10 November 1990.

The Commonwealth Institute is an equal opportunities employer.

U.S.A. VOICE MAIL COMPANY

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لغة من اللغة

MEDIA

Soviet war of words

DISCUSSIONS on the dramatic political changes in eastern Europe overtook a conference that was meant to discuss how journalists should report the newly shaped Continent. Journalists from 29 countries attended the conference, Reporting Europe, 1992 and Beyond, held in Cardiff at the weekend, but proceedings were dominated by fierce disagreements between the Soviet delegates.

Vasil Bazov, the editor of *Free Ukraine*, a new broadsheet which is eating into the sales of the Communist party's *Pravda* in the Ukraine, spoke with pride about being from a sovereign state and told how he had tried his way with food to get his paper printed.

Professor Lilia Shevtsova, of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, delivered a general indictment of her country's political situation. But *Pravda*'s chief political columnist, Thomas Kolesnichenko, dismissed her as a member of the opposition, like Neil Kinnock and "less pretty than Mrs Thatcher". The Soviet Union might be poor, he said, but it was progressing.

Bringing matters back to the subject in hand, John Lloyd, of the *Financial Times*, said the new societies in eastern Europe had opened up enormous scope for the media. When communist had been controlled, the literary approach had been revived and that was now accompanied by a modern, western drive to sharper analysis. He said journalists should no longer think in terms of the eastern bloc, but of separate countries, each with its idiosyncratic revolution.

Michel Zantovsky, President Václav Havel's press secretary, won wide support from the conference when he called on the western media to employ more local talent in their reporting of the East. He added that a year ago the communist president of Czechoslovakia could have predicted the weather and still have made the front page of Prague newspapers. Today the president had to work hard to make the inside pages.

On reporting the European Community, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the former president of the European Commission, said journalists should not see the single European market purely in terms of trade. "When eastern European countries look to the EC as a beacon of hope, they look to more than lorries crossing Europe freely."

NICHOLAS WATT

Fear of a television ban on alcohol ads is prompting a change of emphasis, Geraldine Bedell reports

Grasping for a new image



Scoring on low alcohol: still from the Carlton LA commercial, with images of soldiers and footballers

The threat of a European ban on alcohol advertising has receded sharply — earlier this month the Council of Europe quashed an attempt to ban television advertising of alcohol, to bring drink into line with cigarettes, and this week the French upper house unexpectedly threw out a proposal to ban all drink advertising.

However, the anti-drink lobby remains strong, and in Britain its efforts are likely to mean distinctly different-looking advertising in this year's high-spending pre-Christmas period.

Even those campaigning against alcohol abuse now accept that advertising plays a minimal role in encouraging people to start drinking. Tony Humphris, the public affairs director of Alcohol Concern, says: "We're not saying alcohol advertising should be banned, or even that it is the main determinant of how much is consumed. Price is far more important."

But this is small consolation for advertisers. Increasingly sensitive to the vociferous health lobby, they are trying strenuously to demonstrate a responsible approach, to rebuff any proposals for statutory control.

When the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) toughened its code on alcohol advertising on television in late 1988, forbidding the use of personalities likely to appeal to people aged under 18, or associations with social or sexual success, several campaigns were withdrawn. These included Jonathan Ross's work for Harp, the Hagar the Horrible campaign for Skol, and George, the Hofmeister bear. Courage, the maker of Hofmeister, recently tried to bring back George in a new commercial which portrayed him as humorously clumsy. (In the past, advertisers have claimed that where humour is involved, the code should not be interpreted with puritanical literal-mindedness.) But the IBA companies this week refused to support the advertisement, and Courage backed down.

In the past, advertisers have sometimes attempted to abide by the letter of the code, but not necessarily its spirit. Laura Pennington, alcohol co-ordinator for the North West Regional Health Authority, has researched consumer responses to drink advertisements, and believes that although certain elements of the IBA code have been adhered to, "there has been artistic licence in interpretation of the areas of the

code relating to young people, social success and masculinity. They are deeper characters — weary and worldly wise."

Mr Hiscocks believes there are two reasons for the change of emphasis. "People no longer want to see mean and moody men; they want to see men who have relationships"

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'People no longer want to see mean and moody men; they want to see men who have relationships'

the message on to his workaholic assistant. David Jones, a spokesman for Courage, says: "The new campaign has characters who would not have been seen in beer advertising a few years ago."

Brewers are also supporting low and no-alcohol products with an estimated £10 million advertising budget, although they represent only 1 per cent or 2 per cent of the market. Many of these ads appropriate the glamorous imagery once associated with alcohol. Mark Luca, the marketing director for Courage brands, says: "Initially these drinks were seen as defensive purchases, something you drank because there was no alternative. More recently there has been an attempt to sell them positively, as something you drink to stay in control."

In Bartle Bogle Hegarty's commercial for White Label, a young woman picks up a young man at a dance, in Edwards Martin Thornton's advertisement for Tennent's low-alcohol beer, a young man aims with complete accuracy at a fairground rifle range; and in BMP DDB Needham's campaign for Carlton LA, shots of a writer are cross-cut with images of soldiers and footballers. With their suggestion of masculinity and sexual and social success, none of these advertisements would be allowed if the products were alcoholic.

Consumption of low-alcohol beers, however, has plateaued; if they continue to be advertised (and Courage is spending £2 million on the Carlton LA campaign), it is because brewers are anxious to reinforce the impression that they are responsible.

The alcohol advertising debate has moved on now to whether there should be some counter-vailing message. Mr Humphris says, "such as units of alcohol or a health warning on the product, or a levy on advertising to pay for health education."

The drinks industry would resist this, believing the current controls are working. Peter Mitchell, the strategic affairs director of Guinness, says: "The industry in this country is one of the best regulated in Europe. Other countries are recognising that — The Netherlands has just brought in a code very similar to ours."

Whatever the reason — changing values, a growing sense of responsibility, or the fear of provoking an all-out ban on advertising — this Christmas we shall be seeing a lot more of the lager-drinker with relationships.

MEDIA WATCH

What's in a name?

TABLET editors fear the well-established tradition of journalists posing as the staff of rival papers may confuse the workings of a new hotline. This has been set up in order to allow those who feel their privacy has been unduly infringed by the press to lodge a complaint with the Press Complaints Commission before an article or photograph has been published. Privately, the editors suspect that the hotline will increase the incentive for journalistic skulduggery.

Square bashing

MORE than 80,000 council households in Scotland discovered how to watch, free of charge, two of the five British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) channels, after two Scottish schoolboys found the BSB sports and Galaxy entertainment channels on their set one afternoon and sold their story to the *Daily Record*. BSB admitted all homes in the UK connected to the old MATV (master antenna) system installed by councils in the Sixties can pick up the two channels free of charge, but insisted it is part of a promotional drive to persuade viewers to buy the whole package.

Listener aid

THE future of *The Listener* will not be decided until early next year, when ITV withdraws its funding. The 61-year-old broadcasting magazine, whose weekly circulation has fallen from 150,000 in the Fifties to about 18,000, is reportedly losing £750,000 a year. But Peter Fiddick, the editor, says the BBC has no plans to close the title at present.

Smaller screen

THE BBC is saving £1.6 million by shedding 80 jobs in the Midlands through voluntary redundancy and a near recruitment freeze over the next three years at its Pebble Mill television studios, as part of a cost-cutting plan to save the corporation £75 million annually by 1993. At least 2,000 more production jobs in BBC network television are at risk as a result of the government's requirement that 25 per cent of all programmes must be independently-made by 1993, broadcasting unions have forecast.

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The rage in the heart of the dove

The novelist Amos Oz is a respected voice of reason in Israel, yet he has become a deeply angry man who believes in the partition of his country. Richard Owen discovers why

Amos Oz, Israel's foremost novelist and best-known peace activist, is an angry man, a voice — literally and metaphorically — from Israel's wilderness.

A series of tragic and dramatic events in the Middle East — most recently, fervent Palestinian support for Saddam Hussein, the killing by police of 21 Arabs on Temple Mount in Jerusalem, and the stabbing of Israelis by Arabs seeking revenge — have caused disarray on the Israeli left, undermining its carefully constructed policy of dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The right-wing government of Yitzhak Shamir feels vindicated, telling left-wing intellectuals that the PLO is a terrorist organisation.

All of this, Mr Oz told me yesterday at his home in Arad, a town in the Negev desert above the Dead Sea, gives rise to "multitrack anger". Mr Oz, now aged 51, looks the mildest of men, a typical *kibbutznik* — which he was until recently. But there is no doubting his vehemence. "Most Israelis know exactly who they are angry with; they are angry with the bloody Arabs, or they are angry with the bloody government, or they are angry with the bloody outside world, our referees," he says. "In varying degrees I am angry with all of these at the same time."

The PLO leadership, Mr Oz says, had made "an incredibly stupid move" in endorsing Saddam Hussein, causing "serious damage" to the attempts of the Israeli left to further the cause of Middle East peace by "breaking the ice between Israelis and Palestinians. But I'm also angry with the government for being unimaginative, stupid and passive. I am angry with the Arab mob which stoned Jewish worshippers at the Wailing Wall, and angry with the Jewish police who acted recklessly in a way which was utterly unjustifiable." He repeats the phrase "utterly unjustifiable" several times, adding "And I am angry with the way the international community responded to Temple Mount."

"Let me be blunt: I have never regarded the United Nations as a supreme court of justice. It is crystal clear to me that if the Arabs put down a draft resolution blaming Israel for the recent earthquake in Iran, it would probably have a majority, the United States would veto it, and Britain and France would abstain. I am cynical about the United Nations because the United Nations has treated Israel in a cynical way."

Mr Oz found fame in Israel and abroad as the author of deftly observed novels. His work in progress is entitled *The Third Condition*, which he says, deals with

the dilemmas of an Israeli intellectual in Jerusalem confronted with the realities of the intifada, or Palestinian uprising. He has never fought shy of politics, and continues to play a high profile role in the peace movement from Arad, a "development town" to which he moved after more than 30 years on a kibbutz so that his son, who had asthma, could benefit from the clean, dry desert air.

The day before meeting him, I discussed Mr Oz with a family in Jerusalem. The father found his non-literary activities "obnoxious" while his son, serving in the army, agreed with Mr Oz that Israel's occupation since 1967 of the West Bank and Gaza has been detrimental to occupier and occupied alike. Mr Oz seemed pleased by this proof of his theory that Israeli society has become increasingly polarised. In his last book, *The Slopes of Lebanon*, I reminded him, he had drawn a distinction between his political views in 1982, when he condemned the PLO for failing to acknowledge the existence of Israel, and his more recent stand, urging "the dovish left" to make peace with "a deadly enemy" which had abandoned, if only verbally, its demand for Israel's destruction. Did he still take this view? Mr Oz smiles.

"Just before Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, I went abroad on a brief summer holiday. At the time I left I was regarded as a right-wing deviationist by other leftists because, although I was in favour of a Palestinian state, and of talking to the PLO, I had not endorsed these positions for the 'right' reasons. I felt the enemy was an ugly enemy, so I was not part of the left's enthusiastic endorsement of the new PLO. Three weeks later, I came back to discover that, without moving an inch, I had become a leftist deviationist, because some of my colleagues on the left had come screaming out of the bedroom complaining that the bride was not a virgin. I never thought the PLO was a virgin."

Did this mean that Mr Oz had moved closer to the position of the right-wing Likud government? "No. I still maintain that the PLO is both cruel and stupid. It is cruel to its own people, and cruel to us. It is politically stupid, in the tradition of Palestinian leadership over the past 60 to 70 years. It does not make me happy to say this, I wish we could have had a more sophisticated enemy. Israel on the right, by contrast, are glad to have a stupid enemy. I think the Palestinians deserve better."

Mr Oz, in other words, still holds that "in a clash between two national movements, you have to talk to whoever the enemy regards as its representative". But he now lays down two pre-conditions: that the PLO must make explicit its



Outspoken: Amos Oz says "I am for the building of a wall between Israelis and Palestinians"

implied recognition of Israel, and do so "loud and clear"; and that both sides should agree to a "ceasefire" for the period of talks.

Is he alarmed by the continuing move to the right in Israeli society? "You must understand that for years Israel has undergone a collective Salman Rushdie experience. In other words, we have been living under a death threat issued by Muslim religious leaders and Arab politicians, which has never been withdrawn. This would have been enough to drive even the sanest society insane, and we are not the sanest. We have been through persecution, oppression and isolation. What is surprising to me is not that so many Israelis have become hawkish, but that so many Israelis have managed to remain politically sober and realistic."

The other source of his optimism is his belief that both Israelis and Palestinians are beginning to come to terms with one another. Indeed, the present violence can be explained as a consequence of the realisation by both sides that they will have to live with each other — a kind of trauma as the truth dawns.

Mr Oz's hope is that the trauma will be succeeded by peace. "There has been a cognitive block. Palestinians assumed for decades that if they only rubbed their eyes enough, Zionism, Israel and the Jews would go away, like a nightmare. Israelis, meanwhile, saw the entire Palestinian phenomenon as some kind of artificial obstacle created by the Arab countries to cause trouble for Israel. Now both sides are waking up from an anaesthetic, and screaming, shouting and behaving violently. Yet if you held a referendum now between the Mediterranean and the Jordan, and asked every individual what will happen in the end, 70 to 80 per cent would say 'partition'. Partition, in fact, is already beginning, and Temple Mount may well have speeded it up. This may sound strange to someone from Europe, where the walls are

tumbling down. But I say this, loud and clear, I, a liberal progressive Israeli, am for the building of a wall between Israelis and Palestinians."

Is this not a counsel of despair? "My grandfather used to say: 'If people cannot live and behave like decent human beings, let them live in separate cages. I have never set foot in Belfast, and I have heard people say the Irish problem stems from the tragedy of partition. But maybe it is the result of not enough partition. Maybe the answer would have been to partition street from street and house from house. Some on the Left say if only we spoke to the Arabs more and had coffee together more often, we could befriend each other and then make peace. But history almost always works the other way: politicians sign a piece of paper with clenched teeth, sometimes hoping to tear it to shreds in the next generation. And yet the piece of paper holds water. This is what I would like to see happening now."

How fast can drivers learn?

Training buyers of high-performance cars in racetrack techniques does not automatically equip them for the road

The days when drivers of high-performance cars undergo special training as a matter of course could be just around the corner. For the moment, however, it is a corner slippery with controversy.

While leading manufacturers such as Vauxhall, Porsche, Jaguar and Audi are reporting a growing interest by customers in meeting the extra demands of handling a machine capable of well over twice the legal speed limit, police and road safety experts are not only questioning whether cars of such power have a place on the overcrowded British roads, they are also asking whether instructors without Department of Transport certification should be allowed to offer courses which consist largely of racetrack techniques.

Apart from the manufacturers themselves, there are thought to be some five or six private firms teaching the skills of high performance motoring. Not all of these instruct their pupils on how to transfer these skills from the circuit to the street.

Of the manufacturers, only Caterham Cars, which makes the modern version of the Lotus 7, insists that purchasers go through a special training programme; however Vauxhall, whose 175mph Lotus Carlton is due on the roads at the end of November, will ask drivers refusing the course to sign a form saying that they have turned down the opportunity.

The majority of courses available consist of between half a day and 'two days' training, with the objective of first showing the new driver what the vehicle is capable of in an "off the road" context, and then transferring to an open road under the guidance of a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists. One reason for the increasing popularity of such courses is the number and availability of high-performance vehicles: there are now 70 different models on sale which are capable of 140mph or more.

At £48,000, the Lotus

Carlton will sell only 440 vehicles in this country, and will be Britain's most powerful saloon. "The special courses will last for a minimum of one day," a senior Vauxhall spokesman says. "No one is being taught to drive faster, but rather to drive more safely. This particular model is able to go from zero mph to 60 and back to inertia in eight and a half seconds. Most cars could not even get to 50 in that time."

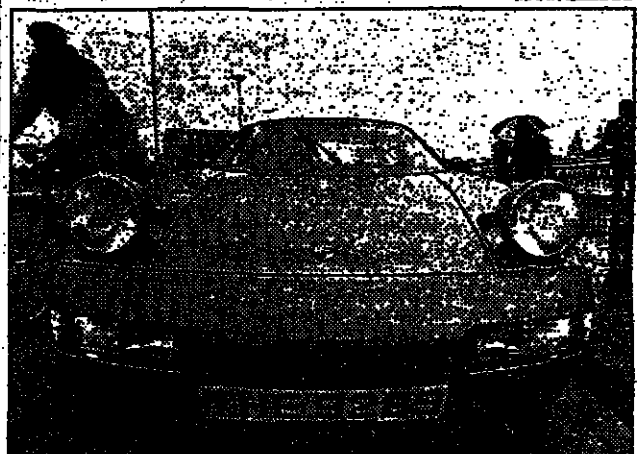
In the opinion of Dave Calderwood, the editor of *Performance Car* magazine, the trend towards special training courses is extremely welcome. "The essence of the best ones," he says, "is that they show you how to handle the car in such a way that it always remains stable. All the time, I have taken stress the importance of never getting into a situation when you have used up all your safety margins. There are so many cars about today which are potentially really fast, and they can all be dangerous when handled by people of insufficient experience."

John Lyon is a former police driving instructor who runs the highly respected training programme, HPC (High Performance Course). "What worries me greatly is that in order to handle a high-performance car safely, many drivers need not just a day or two but something nearer four or five. I am concerned that the criterion for drivers being given the courses is simply that they have bought the car."

"We have the highest standard of roadcraft for police in the world, and I base my training on that. But there are cowboys about who are teaching their clients to drive like racing drivers. Inevitably some feel the temptation to put what they have learnt into practice on the roads. The 3am experiment on a quiet motorway is what we most dread. I think it is fair to describe that as not socially acceptable."

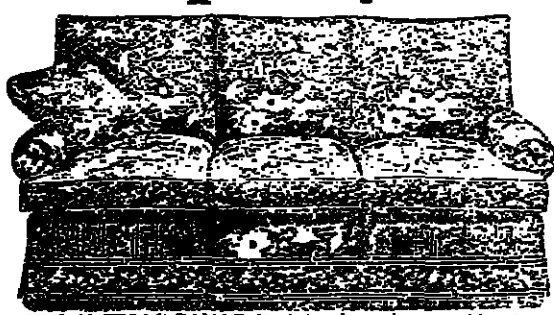
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Taking Mickey out of culture

Europe's first Disney store will open in Regent Street on Saturday. Is it a dream come true — or a nightmare?



Fantasy world: Donna Moore at the London store

United States. By Christmas there will be 78. Research into American buying patterns shows that each shopper leaves with an average of three purchases, and Britain's economic downturn is not expected to affect sales. "These are, on the whole, inexpensive purchases which make people feel good," Ms Moore says. "Even in a recession you still have to buy children's clothing. You still have to buy toys. And there is still a Christmas."

Is there an educational element in Disney toys? "We don't push that side of things. We emphasise the fun and entertainment side. Even with clothing, we sell apparel to make the wearer smile."

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The bridge builders

The school reunion could have been anywhere in Germany. Over-sixties, in their smartest suits, disgorged from the Mercedes of obliging relatives, divesting themselves of the years as they entered the sombre grammar school building. Mildly hysterical outbreaks of laughter at the sight of the classrooms, smaller than memory had preserved them, and everywhere the murmur: "Erinnerst du dich noch?" ("Do you still remember?")

But the 29 members of the class of 1943 at the Johann-Gottfried Seale school who gathered in the village of Vacha last weekend never expected to see their school again. For more than 40 years it lay in the *Spergebiet* — the three-mile wide buffer zone between the former East and West Germany closed to visitors, an officially designated no man's land whose residents could enter only with special passes.

A bridge links Vacha, in the east, with its narrow wooden houses and tiny medieval marketplace, with the neighbouring town of Philippsthal on the western side of the Werra river. In 1945, the Russians marched into Vacha, but stopped at the river. This was to become the demarcation line for the Soviet and American zones, the front line of the cold war. The bridge was then sealed. One resident whose house straddled the new border found a wall erected through his property, and the eastern wing of it walled up.

A metal grille in the middle of the river, automatic shooting devices and, in 1961, a full-scale concrete wall, cemented the division of the two villages. From Philippsthal they could see the church, but not attend relatives' funerals held there. Once in a while a bedraggled figure who had dodged the shots and negotiated the wire would arrive on the western bank. More often there were volleys of shots, and then silence.

When the border between East and West Germany opened, Ingrid Morris, who was living in retirement in Uxminster, east London, promised herself a return to her school. As a child she cycled across the bridge daily. "I just wanted to stand on it again," she says.

Mrs Morris left Germany for Britain in 1950, married and settled down. She recently retired from her job as a court clerk. "There was no future at all in Philippsthal," she says. "It has been asleep for 40 years. Seven of my class ended up in East Germany; they might as well have been dead for us. Today is like seeing ghosts."

The fate of the former East Germans incarcerated in the buffer zone made it easy to forget the suffering of the western communities jammed up against it. Philippsthal has the uneasy, smothered feel of an introverted community. "We were up against communism here," the pub landlord says bitterly. "Nobody came."

The class is busy recalling

After 40 years,
Ingrid Morris (right)
can visit her
'lost' neighbours.
Anne McElvay
reports from a small
town in Germany



he has since taught history in a nearby village. He is mildly resentful of what he cautiously refers to as the "well-meant advice" of the westerners. "For them it is just the fall of a regime, we are suddenly free again. But they forget that for people of our generation, who went to school under Nazism, the East German state was a great hope. We believed that we could build a just, socialist society out of the ruins of fascism."

The West Germans in the group talk with animated compulsion of the wall, the watch towers, the guard dogs, caught in the web of fascination with the accoutrements of the regime. But they ask few questions about the lives their former schoolmates have led inside it.

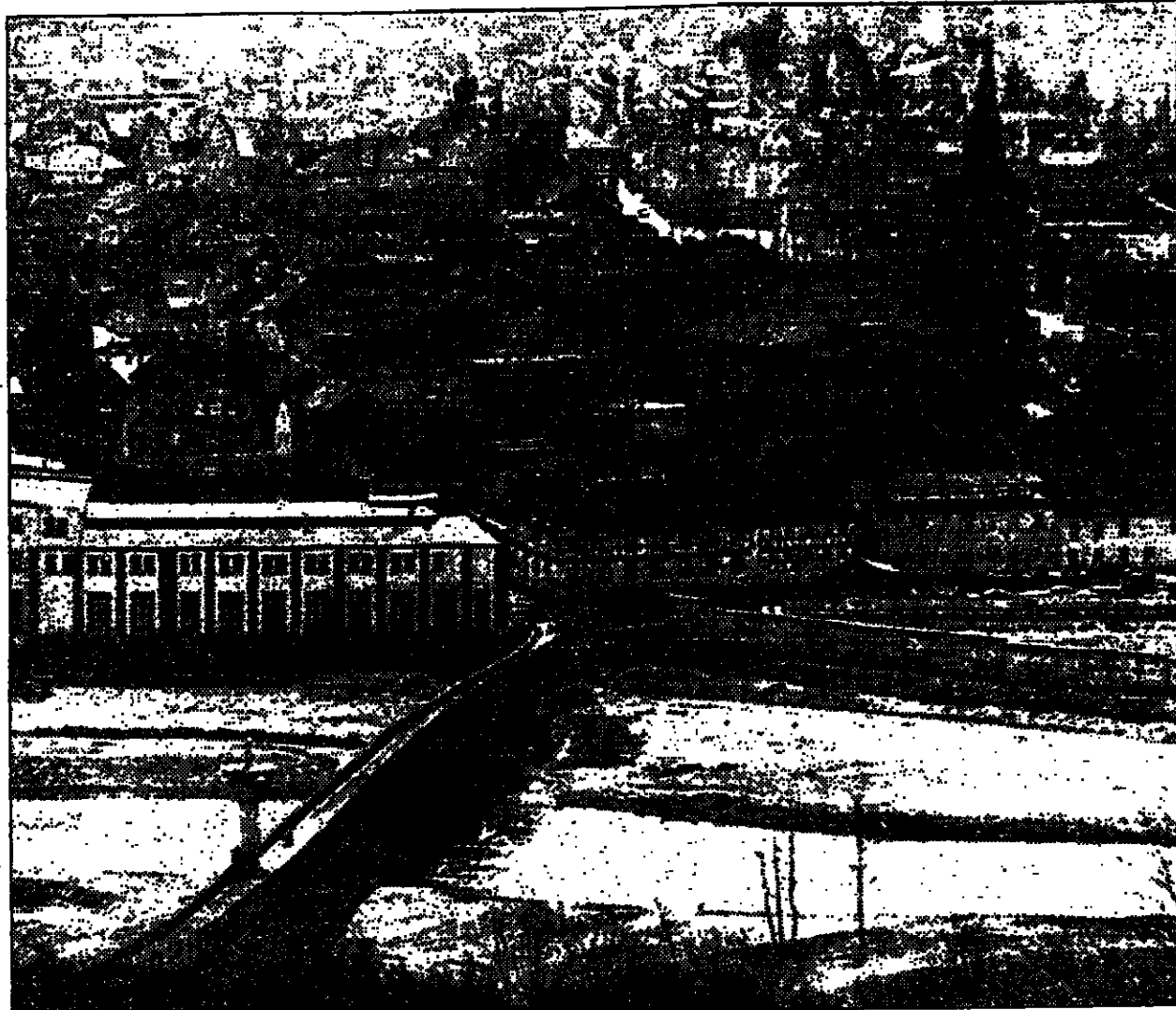
In a corner, the East Germans shake their heads. "They cannot understand that what makes the pain more intense is the betrayal of ideals," Herr Heumann says. "A German utopia has collapsed for us and suddenly these judgments from the westerners. Would they really have realised any earlier what was happening to their dream? I doubt it. History was cruel to them once, then it came back and punished some of us a second time."

in Vacha was so complicated that Frau Schmidt used to apply for a yearly pass and visit parents in their homes instead.

Her open, country features darken as she talks of the wasted years, the senseless pretences of the communist system: "We fell from the one dictatorship into the other," she says. "My task now is to ensure that my pupils do not fall for it again."

You can still tell the East Germans in the group from those who have lived in the West; they wear zip-up instead of double-breasted jackets for best, and are noticeably less buoyant and jovial than their western counterparts.

Karl Heubach returned to the region after being taken prisoner of war by the British;



Aerial view of a bridge to memory: the link across the Werra river between Philippsthal, in what was West Germany and Vacha, which was cut off for almost half a century in the communist East

The swastika was replaced after the war with the East German state symbol of hammer and compass and then the ubiquitous picture of Erich Honecker, which was itself hastily taken down when he was removed from power last November.

On the walls hang new maps of the federal state of Thuringia, which was officially dissolved by the communists in 1952 and revived earlier this year.

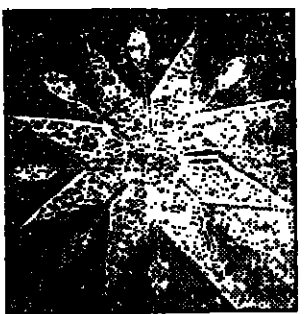
"We are learning a new way for the third time this century," says Hannelore Schmidt, the deputy headmistress. She has been there for 30 years, living in a community dominated by a military rule-book, identity documents, a constant state of alert.

"We suffered doubly here," she says. The 5,000 residents of Vacha had very little contact with the rest of East Germany. "Even for weddings or funerals we could only invite first-degree relatives, no cousins or friends. We lived in each other's pockets; they just sealed us off in a pen here, like sheep." The community was shattered by two waves of expulsions in which ideologically suspect families were moved out overnight.

The neighbouring village of Oberzella lay even closer to the West — a mere 500 yards, and in the top security zone. The bureaucracy involved in getting the residents of Oberzella to parents' evenings

& BRIEFLY

Romancing the stones



A GIRL'S best friends in all their glory will go on display next month in what is claimed to be the biggest and most valuable exhibition of diamonds to be held in London for more than 30 years. The stones can be ogled at Garrard, the crown jewellers, from November 7 until December 1. One of Queen Victoria's diamond tiaras will be on view, together with a "Garrard Star" brooch which has been designed for the exhibition, and which comes in different sizes from about £2,000 to £10,000.

De Beers will launch its New Cuts collection in Britain with unconventionally cut diamonds in yellow, pink and green. A diamond cutter will be working in the store, at 112 Regent Street, London W1, throughout the first week and after that on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Hearty eating

THIS week has been designated Cholesterol Countdown Week, with the Family Heart Association planning to construct a huge jigsaw puzzle comprising 180,000 pieces to represent the number of

deaths from coronary heart disease in Britain every year. You can "purchase" a piece for £1 from the FHA, 9 West Way, Botley, Oxford OX2 0JB (0865 798969) and Holland & Barrett health food shops. The money enters contestants in a prize draw, and also helps fund the work of the association. The FHA provides dietary advice with the motto "There are no bad foods — just bad diets". Some biscuits, chips and roast potatoes, nuts, lobster, alcohol and other treats are allowed "in moderation", but butter, chocolate, whole milk, duck, siltson, pâté and cream crackers are banned.

Sew far...

ANOTHER facet of the needlework designer Kaffe Fassett will be revealed when the first Ehrman wallpaper and fabric shop opens next week. The shop, at 21/22 Vicarage Gate, London W8, will stock the new range of Fassett wallpapers and a selection of his fabrics produced for the Designer's Guild.

All clear

MAKERS of water filters might raise their glasses to recent worries about the quality of some domestic water supplies. One of the most innovative contenders is the new Filter Fresh, which fits in the door of the average refrigerator. This means the water can be stored at a temperature which gives rise to fewer bacteria, according to the manufacturer, William Levene. Price: £7.99, with refill charcoal filters £3.99 for two. From local stockists or William Levene Ltd, 167 Imperial Drive, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 7JP (081-868 4355).

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SCOTCH WHISKY

John Murray is a Seasoned Observer of the effects of Time and Change upon the Men, and upon the whisky which his skill helps to coax

from Ross-shire Barley and Spring Water. (In John falls the duty of WELCOMING in the new Distillation). Over the years he must occasionally ACCOMMODATE a significant

newcomer at the Distillery, in the elegant *swan-necked* shape of the New Still. The replacement of these Distillery work-horses involves John in a ritual known as 'Sweetening The Still'. This sends him away up the

Morangie Hill, armed with an old 'mash' sack which he fills with a quantity of peat, heather and herbs. By boiling this fragrant concoction John can speedily exercise any rawness in the new copper and so ease the newcomers into its role of sweetening the existence



HANDCRAFTED BY THE SILENT MEN OF THIS

ROCK

500,000 reasons to be grateful

As the American rock group Grateful Dead gives its first British concerts since 1981, Melanie Finn meets some fanatical followers

Workers at the Shoreline Amphitheater near San Francisco had seen a lot of strange things. But nothing as weird as this bunch of neo-hippies, tie-dyed gypsies who danced and whirled, their eyes glazed over. Everywhere there was music — sometimes it was a bit like bluegrass, but then it had a rock rhythm, and a sort of New Age thing. Everyone was swaying, creating a vibrating mass of colour and long hair and marijuana smoke.

These people are the faithful, fervent followers of the Grateful Dead, the only psychedelic band that has survived the polyester of the Seventies and the greed of the Eighties with its popularity intact. Dead fans number perhaps 500,000 — a sizeable following even in America and despite the fact that the band has only ever had one Top 10 hit.

Now, Dead Heads are not just fans; they are obsessive. They fix the Grateful Dead at the centre of their lives. Dead Heads do not just buy the odd CD or poster; they have created and perpetuated a huge, self-contained counter-culture based on the music of their private gods: Jerry Garcia, Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, Mickey Hart, Bill Kreutzmann and the recently deceased Brent Mydland.

Dead Heads live according to unwritten codes of conduct. They have their own nationally syndicated Dead Head radio show and their own magazines. Their worldwide network of tape collectors, with the band's blessing, records all Dead performances and shares them with other fanatic archivists. They have their own computer-linked database system, The Well, which is used as a forum for gossip and a means of direct communication with the band itself, their own drugs addiction programme; their own information hotline and phone-in ticket sales operations; their own travel agency and their own set of symbols. There is even an ice-cream called "Cherry Garcia".

Dead Heads do not just go to the occasional concert; they travel

thousands of miles for shows, living on the road for months — even years — at a time in their Volkswagen vans and converted school buses, selling tie-dyed socks, vegetarian burritos and drugs for petrol money.

Bill Field, who has been to 634 Grateful Dead concerts, joined the band and the bearded on tour in his early twenties. For a year and a half, he slept on benches and in VW vans. He begged for money and spent some of it having a Grateful Dead skull tattooed on his right arm. At concerts he waited for "a miracle": a free ticket. More often than not he was given one by other Dead Heads in a show of brotherly love. He is getting a second skull tattooed on his left arm for his 25th birthday.

"My moral standards and values have been shaped by the Grateful Dead," he says. "They are my philosophy."

But not all Dead Heads are hippies. Stuart Nixon, senior manager of a San Francisco-based genetics firm, never wears tie-dye. He began following the Grateful Dead in 1969, fell in love with his future wife at a concert, toured with the band for his honeymoon and has a collection of 2,000 Dead tapes. His three-year-old child has been to 38 concerts.

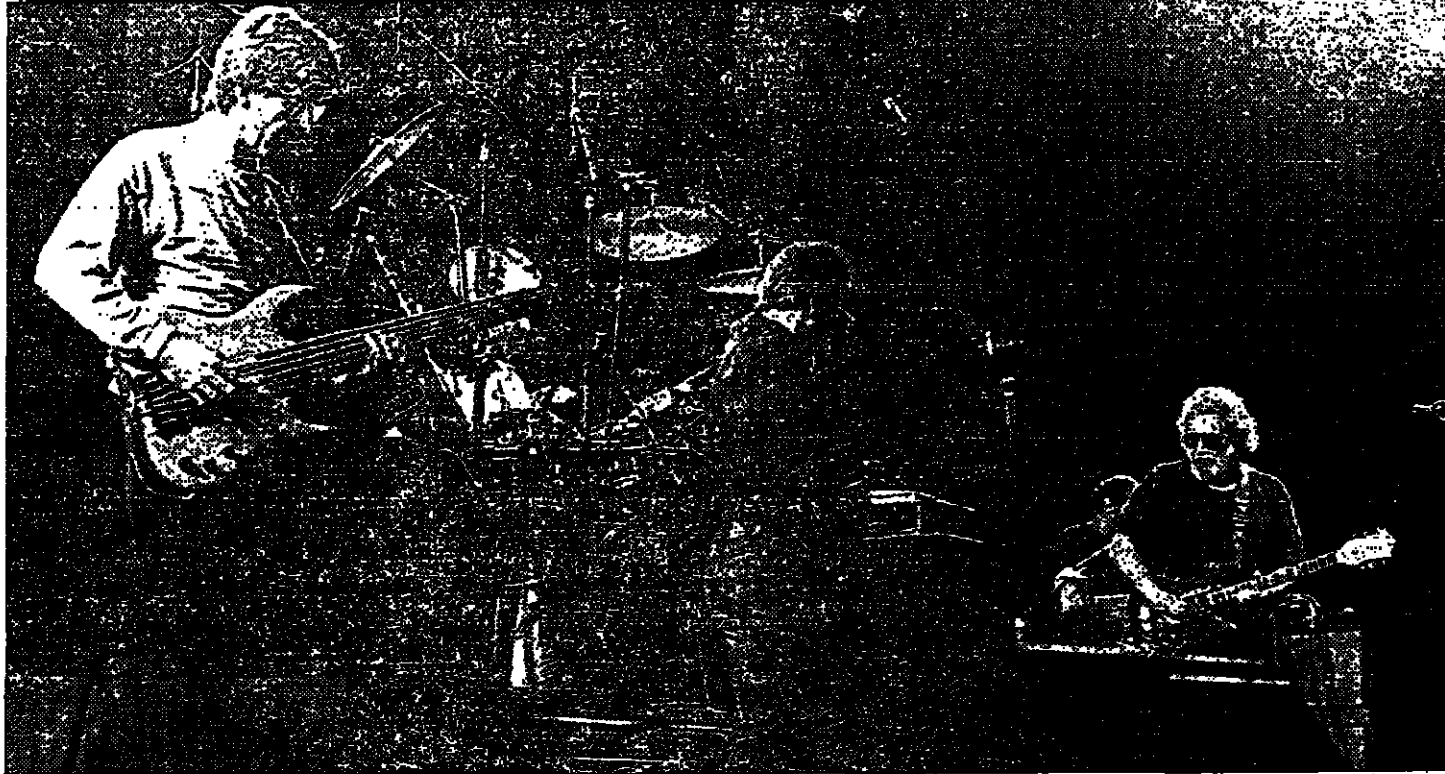
Why this extraordinary dedication to six middle-aged men who play music that, in the words of one critic, is at best, "noble but lame"? Why are grown-ups still throwing their souls into the wind with the kind of fervour that has, according to sources quoted in *Rolling Stone* magazine, made the Dead the single most successful touring band in rock history? The band grossed \$28 million in 1989, most of which came from ticket sales. On one day alone, last year, they made a net profit of \$870,000 on ticket sales.

The band first garnered a small following in the hippie days of Haight-Ashbury, and were the favoured group for LSD parties, when the drug was still legal. The free-form style of the Dead's music fitted the mood perfectly. Although two of the keyboardists have died from overdoses and the remaining members drive BMWs, to the faithful the Grateful Dead still embody the best of the Sixties: the humanity, the unity, the spontaneity, the spirituality, and the bare feet. After all, the band gave away \$650,000 last year to needy organisations, they still wear tie-dye and never play any song the same way twice, although sometimes they play the same song for three hours.

And while critics have labelled the Grateful Dead "nostalgia mongers", Dead Heads counter that there can be nothing wrong with attaching themselves to values which they claim are gentler and more enriching than anything the Reagan-Bush era has produced.

"For me the status quo just doesn't work any more. I mean, mainstream America is an apathetic and lonely place," says Bill Bacon, an artist who discovered the Dead when he left the Salvation Army two years ago. "But among Dead Heads there is energy, a sense of hope and an intense spirit of community."

Like many other Dead Heads, Bacon, an awkward child of



Bluegrass, rock and a little New Age: the Grateful Dead on stage in New York this year

missions parents in Alaska, found an outlet for his spirituality beyond the confines of organised religion. While he finds "harmony", Stuart Nixon believes "the Dead are a channel for some higher power to come to earth and be focused. In the music there is this extraordinary energy."

Garcia came up with the name "Dead Head" in 1971, and certain symbols — roses, skulls, dancing bears — recur in the band's artwork. Trademarked or copyrighted, these are plastered on T-shirts and car stickers, so Dead Heads have a means of identifying each other.

For many years the Grateful Dead also allowed camping and vending at their concerts. Eventually, the band clamped down, partly because the drugs were becoming an all-too-obvious merchandise, partly because some \$200,000 a day was being lost to vendors selling copyrighted Dead paraphernalia illegally. Yet vending continues at most shows, though in a far less conspicuous manner. Says Dead Head Derek Plummer: "It's all part of being a Dead Head. You know, come to the show, buy a T-shirt, hang out

and meet old friends. There is more than just music. There are a lot of drugs. Last year, a young fan — reportedly out of control on acid — choked to death. Another was found dead outside the Brendan Byrne Arena in New Jersey. At any Dead show, drug pushers sell tabs of acid decorated with dancing bears or roses.

The Dead have officially condemned the use of drugs. However, the band's first keyboard player, Pigpen, died in 1973 of liver failure a year after he had apparently conquered a serious drug and alcohol addiction; Garcia almost died from his cocaine and heroin habit in the mid-Eighties; and Brent Mydland, keyboard player since 1979, died of a morphine overdose last August. The drugs problem has worsened since the Dead's 1987 hit, "Touch of Grey", and the band has been banned from several major American venues.

According to Bruce Krenitz, production stage manager at the Frost Amphitheater on California's Stanford University campus, the Dead were banned two years

ago when the drugs got out of hand. "In the past, when the Dead showed up, the crowd was easy to control. But it's not as mellow as it used to be," he says. "I mean, some guy set his wife and child on fire three years ago."

In nearby Palo Alto, retailers complained of a significant increase in shoplifting during Dead shows. Fans were setting up campfires illegally, a real danger in a town under the constant threat of forest fires. And for several weeks after a concert, there was an excess of drugs in the community.

As one shopkeeper put it: "It's not just the band that comes, it's the whole damn bunch of them, with their drugs and their cars that leak oil all over my parking lot."

The majority of Dead Heads, however, are harmless. "They are not the seventh coming of the Visigoths," says Dennis MacNally, spokesman for the band. "They may look weird and they may act weird, but they love their band and the music and each other."

● The Grateful Dead are at Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) on October 30, 31 and November 1 at 7.30pm

BRIEFING

Happy birthday

THE Young Vic, which has enjoyed a long and happy association with the American playwright Arthur Miller, is celebrating his 75th birthday on Sunday with an evening devoted to his life and work. There will be performed extracts from all of Miller's major plays, as well as readings from his autobiography, *Timebends*, and footage from interviews with him. All of the actors taking part — including Zoe Wanamaker, David Calder and Susannah York — have been in past productions of Miller's plays at the Young Vic (071-633 0133). The birthday celebration will launch the Save The Young Vic Festival, which is aiming to keep the cash-starved theatre open. There will be 73 events over eight days, including plays, master classes, celebrity interviews, discussions, and poetry readings.

Posturing

WHEN the Museums and Galleries Commission was still the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries, it moved into its splendid St James's Square lodgings. Life for the commission in those days was more sedentary, to the extent that was dubbed the Recumbent Commission. Now, greatly expanded, it has moved into more spacious accommodation in Queen Anne's Gate. Staff are very happy with their new home, except for the annoying slope, which encourages things to roll off desks. Needless to say, the wags are at it again. So pronounced is the list that the quango is being dubbed, at least by those within, the Sliding Commission on Museums and Galleries.

Last chance

CARYL Churchill's spirited look at modern Romania, *Mad Forest*, suggests that the nastier the tyranny, the nastier the aftermath. The play was written as an end-of-term production for the students of Central School. Public response was so enthusiastic that its drama-school run was extended and a short season arranged at the Royal Court. (071-730 1745). This Saturday the axe must fall at last, and the vampire and the archangel — which are Churchill's symbols for the forces tearing the country apart — will dance their last wedding waltz.

OPERA PREVIEW

Rude as in raw and not as in naughty

Since his death in 1973, at the age of 53, the music of Bruno Maderna has fallen into the usual posthumous neglect, made perhaps more inevitable in his case by the fact that his most ambitious scores leave large degrees of freedom to the performers, and that, in some cases, the "work" consists of raw material out of which a performance has to be shaped. His chamber opera *Satyricon*, one of his last pieces, is typical, being an assembly of 16 musical numbers in no particular order, possibly with electronic tapes to be used as well, and with a range of usually rude musical references to everything from the cancan to Wagner. It is a matter of packing a great deal of heterogeneous experience into a small space, which is what Maderna achieved in his life.

He began his conducting career when he was 12, as a baby-faced "Brunetto"; then came a period of study interrupted by war service. Like his fellow Venetian, Luigi Nono, he was encouraged by the most distinguished Venetian composer of the previous generation, Gian Francesco Malipiero, and also by the German conductor Hermann Scherchen. Malipiero taught the two young composers to be open to both old music and new. Scherchen introduced them to Schoenberg's 12-note technique. They both began writing 12-note pieces in the late 1940s, and gravitated naturally to the new hot-house of progressive music: Darmstadt.

There Maderna became a leading figure, as composer, conductor and teacher, even though his approach was very different from

that of his colleagues, Stockhausen and Boulez. His scores and his few writings give no evidence of the analytic temperament that fired them: he was prepared to experiment — his *Musica su due dimensioni* of 1952 has a place in the history books as the first piece to be played by a live performer with tape — but he was most essentially an improviser. His 1955 String Quartet, in which a rigid structure opens up into lyricism and warmth, was an object lesson to himself, as it was to other composers.

It was at this point that Luciano Berio became his closest musical colleague. The two men shared an attitude of inclusiveness and generosity; they worked together on some pieces; and they joined in creating an electronic music studio in Milan in the mid-1950s.

Professionally, however, Maderna followed more the path of Boulez in moving from leading small ensembles through the knottiest new music to conducting symphony orchestras.

Like Boulez, too, he became fascinated by the concept of the "open work", and devoted most of his creative energies in the 1960s to various forms of his first theatre piece, *Hyperion*. Then in 1969 he began a "final period" of astonishing productivity: within five years, eight big orchestral works, besides *Satyricon* and a variety of smaller pieces. A sudden crescendo to the end.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

● *Satyricon* opens at the Drill Hall, Chertsey Street, London WC1 (071-637 8270) tonight at 8pm and continues until November 10

TELEVISION

Get set to be bored to death

APOLOGIES must be made to jelly manufacturers worldwide. In previewing *Twin Peaks* for *Saturday Review*, I suggested that episode one was about as exciting as watching jelly set. Having sat through it again last night on BBC 2, it occurs to me that the setting of jelly is a vastly more complex, exciting and dramatic undertaking. The director of this acclaimed American television series, David Lynch, is, we are told by an admiring Mel Brooks, "the James Stewart of Mars", by which token his series is *Peyton Place from the Planet Tharg*.

Reports from the United States indicate that, after phenomenal ratings for the first instalment, they fell away quite sharply. The miracle is surely how they held up for even the first 90 minutes that it took us last night to work out that

it was of no great importance who killed Laura Palmer. If the surrounding life of *Twin Peaks* is anything to go by, she probably died of a lethal mixture of boredom, inertia and old movie memories.

Lynch is, I think, trying to say that nothing is quite what it seems in a small town near the Canadian border, where there may well be something very nasty in the wood shed. If there is, it certainly is not going to be revealed much before Christmas; Lynch himself wrote the opener with his co-producer, Mark Frost, of *Hill Street Blues*, and what they seem to be attempting is a parody of B-movie thrillers from the late 1950s, hence the presence of such minor movie stars of that period as Piper Laurie, Richard Beymer and Russ Tamblyn. They have also, I would

guess, decided to use the murder of the high-school queen Laura as what Hitchcock used to call his McGuffin, a device to hook the viewer but one which can then be abandoned as the story plods off in other directions.

In this case, Lynch and Frost are keen to explore the mud on the other side of the white picket fence as a picturesque lakeside community drifts into tension and hostility. Most English producers would rapidly have called in Miss Marple to sort out the culprits, but the makers of *Twin Peaks* are determined to treat us to another 25 characters, all of whom had last night to be introduced, assigned their very own lovable little quirks, and then fitted very slowly into the surreal jigsaw.

Still more terrifyingly, there is promised another entire series, which makes it unlikely that even by Christmas it will be clear we are going to be told who killed Laura or why she was found to have somebody's else's initials stuck under her fingernails. The trouble with Lynch and Frost is that they are determined to drift through all the 1950s conventions of small-town murder mysteries, clue by boring clue, until the eccentricities of the suspects are the only possible alibis for having started the trail in the first place.

An understandably confused-looking cast give amazingly wooden performances, presumably in tribute to the log cabins all around them, while all that has really emerged from part one is the thought that *Twin Peaks* is not the place anybody would choose for an Awayday.

This is either a formative post-modernist breakthrough in lateral unstructured thrillers, or else a derivative and pretentious load of old Hollywood tat. Although, on the basis of part one, I am strongly inclined to the latter view, it might just be worth staying around in case something finally starts to happen. In my more paranoid moments, however, I have started to suspect that *Twin Peaks* may turn out to be the punishment that BBC executives are visiting on me for having made fun of *Portrait of a Marriage*: come home Vita, all is forgiven.

SHERIDAN MORLEY



self respect

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LITERATURE

Juggling with war lines

Author Kurt Vonnegut discusses his latest novel, *Hocus Pocus*, with Peter Lewis

Kurt Vonnegut, the Sage of Indianapolis, is in town and his fans will want to know what prophecies he makes about the current chaos and so on. Fresh from playing six-a-side chess against Kasparov, he shambled into a room like a bear with a curly top and gave a wonky, weary grin from beneath the moustache. He is six-foot-two and, he says himself, poorly co-ordinated except when swimming. As usual, he has frequent recourse to a pack of Pall Mall.

His new book is called *Hocus Pocus* and, like all Vonnegut, is a form of fiction which is also a philosophical chat with the reader in the most laid-back, so-it-goes manner. The book's title reflects the subject of what Vonnegut's narrator became an expert in when serving in Vietnam as a colonel in public relations — justifying what was going on there until the excrement hit the air conditioning, as he puts it.

"Hocus pocus," exclaimed Vonnegut. "What else do we hear at this minute about the Gulf Crisis? The one thing said over and over again is — This is not about oil, so people won't know that we may be asking our boys to die for petroleum. Not to mention the armaments industry, which is our largest industry. Even bigger than cocaine."

As Wilfred Owen said in the trenches, in times of crisis a writer's function is to warn. "But there are such engines in motion now, like TV, that you can only look on with black humour." Ever since *Slaughterhouse Five*, which concealed amid its fantasies like a buried aramid-pellet his eyewitness account of the fire-bombing of Dresden, his theme has been human stupidity. "Most troubles on a political scale come down to stupidity and ignorance."

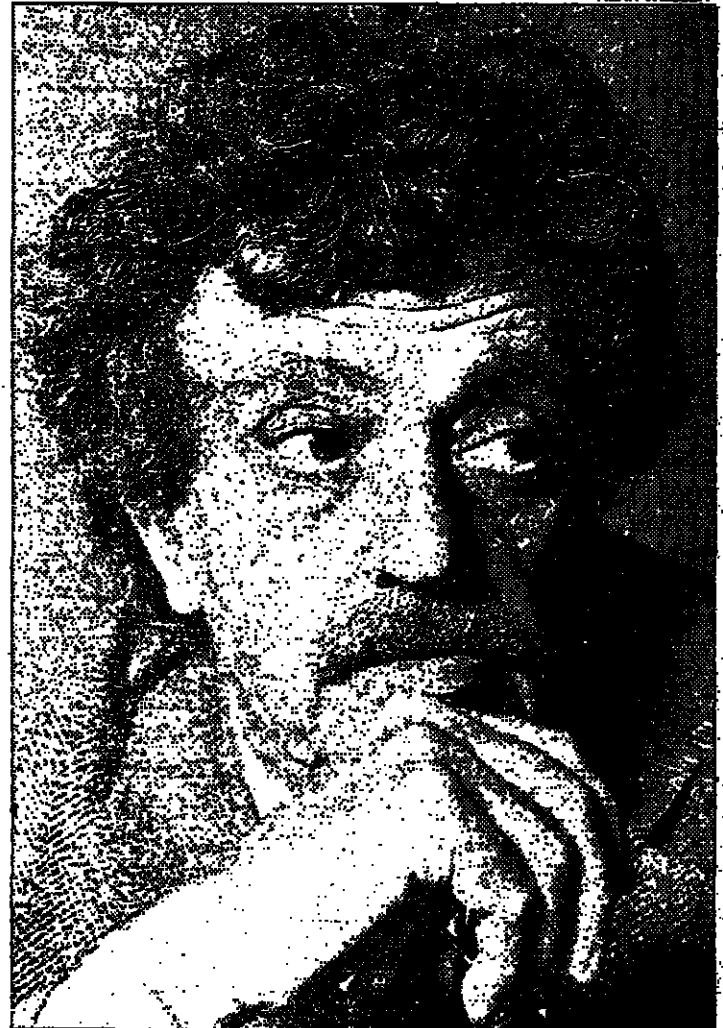
His new book is set in the year 2001, when the United States is bankrupt and most of it owned by Japanese and Koreans. Almost everybody has lost their money in a huge arbitrage swindle. The epiphany that he suggests for the polluted planet, to be carved on a wall in Grand Canyon for living-saucer people to read, is: "We could have saved it but we were too doggone cheap."

In Vonnegut's 2001 there has been none of the expected planting of the American flag on Mars or Venus. No Arthur C. Clarke-like adventures at all. "That's because the human race isn't going anywhere. We are among the largest animals on earth, bigger than most big cats. It's not possible to hurtle all this flesh and bone about in space. In terms of high-school physics, it would take the energy of the entire planet, supposing you could burn it in some way, to get a man to the next galaxy. The space programme is bread and circuses now."

"That means there's no more frontier — a terrible thing to lose for some Americans who need to feel they are getting somewhere, there's limitless opportunity. People resent having been lied to in their childhood. The idea that the human race is going somewhere is a childhood myth. Like Santa Claus, I don't know why that's unbearable to anybody. Life's absorbing enough as it is. This is our field. This is it."

The planet of Tralfamadore that makes frequent appearances in his books is a purely literary device, created, like Swift's flying island, in order to contrast the reason of its inhabitants with the absurdity of earthlings who think they are the glory of the universe.

Vonnegut, a fourth-generation German American, whose name is derived from the River Vonne, is



Vonnegut: "The idea that the human race is going somewhere is a myth"

proud of his midwestern origins. He began as a PR man for General Electric, where he had to conceal that they were working on automation (hence his first book, *Player Piano*). His viewpoint of the innocent abroad from Indiana has something in common with that of another self-taught midwestern writer, Mark Twain. Vonnegut was reading Mark Twain's *What is Man?*, which he had brought with him.

"He was a genius who came east and was treated as a barbarian. To be an accepted literary figure on the eastern seaboard you had to have gone to private school and

Harvard, Yale or Princeton. I went to Cornell when I graduated from Indianapolis. There were only three of us who went east. My credentials are not in order. What could be more ridiculous than denying your origins? All his life, T.S. Eliot suppressed the fact that he came from St Louis. There he was, dressing like an Englishman, sounding like an Englishman, writing about the Church of England. Nobody laughed. They would have if an Englishman turned up in Wyoming talking like a cowboy."

● *Hocus Pocus* is published tomorrow by Cape, £13.99

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ARTS

THEATRE

Broadway is back on top

Survival in New York's theatre world is tough, but the shows there put London to shame, as Matt Wolf reports

Among London's theatre-goers, it is fashionable to turn a derisive eye towards the New York stage, but these days it is the Big Apple that should take a moment to gloat. While the economics of Broadway remain as parlous as ever, the quality of theatre around the city nevertheless surpasses much of what is on offer in the West End. Is that because New York flops tend to be a hasty retreat, rather than lingering painfully on view as they would in London? Perhaps, but something more basic is evident as well: a genuine imaginative rebirth throughout the American theatre that seems to be catching up playwrights, actors, and directors alike.

Audiences, too. At *Six Degrees Of Separation*, John Guare's exceptional new play at Lincoln Center, one encounters the increasingly rare sound of a public virtually hanging on every syllable lest they miss a nuance of this dramatist's most searching work. The place is New York, and the time is now in what constitutes as much of a zeitgeist piece for its milieu as, say, the plays of Alan Ayckbourn and David Hare do on this side of the Atlantic. Guare drew his inspiration from a newspaper article about a young black man who coned his way into the apartments of several white, upper-class New Yorkers by claiming to be a schoolfriend of their children.

From this anecdote, the author has fashioned a work that could not be less derivative. While Guare has the specifics of contemporary Manhattan down frighteningly pat, this is no theatrical equivalent to the Andy Warhol diaries that the play at one point invokes. Rather, it is a therapy for an age where to be rich, savvy and clever does

not begin to suffice; what these characters crave is connection, in order to anchor them in a world which we are told is "all random".

Jerry Zuck's production has been the sellout hit of the summer at Lincoln Center's intimate Mitzel Newhouse Theater. When it moves upstairs next week to the complex's larger Vivian Beaumont auditorium, it will complete the same journey taken by Zuck's definitive staging of Guare's *House of Blue Leaves*, which won four Tony Awards in 1986.

It does not take long in New York, a city ravaged by the triple crises of Aids, homelessness and "crack", before one notes that being hip has long since been displaced by a desire simply to survive. In *Falsettoland*, running off Broadway at the Lucille Lortel Theater, composer William Finn and his indispensable director, James Lapine, turn compassionate thoughts to the topic of survival, in a 70-minute song-cycle that completes a trilogy begun over a decade ago.

The new show is set in 1981, during the onset of Aids, as the trilogy's hero, Marvin (Michael Rupert), is preparing for his son's bar mitzvah and adjusting to the news that his ex-lover, Whizzer (Stephen Bogardus), has contracted a mysterious disease described by a doctor as "a trend with no name".

Before long, of course, that "trend" would become a scourge, and *Falsettoland* hints quietly at the large-scale grief that the Eighties would bring. The musical is also absolutely honest about the redefinition in the last ten years of the urban American family, here defined as a septet embracing not just Marvin, his ex-wife and his ex-lover, but also his two lesbian neighbours, a doctor, a caterer and the psychiatrist whom his ex-

wife has since married. On a small stage using a tiny band, Finn and Lapine have devised a most generous chamber musical, guaranteed to hearten those concerned that the future of the genre lies solely in the British behemoth.

Such levitiations get a gleeful drubbing in the updated version of *Forbidden Broadway* (at Theatre East). Gerard Alessandrini's long-running affectionate parody of the tarnished White Way, here enlarged to include the hits of the season just passed, from *Tommy* to *Gypsy* to the Tommy Tune musical *Grand Hotel* (here re-titled "Grim Hotel"), Alessandrini has always had a whiff of the dramatic about him, and it is hard to imagine a more devastating treatment of *Aspects of Love* than the present mini-pastiche.

One performer who escapes unscathed from *Forbidden Broadway* is Broadway's lone Dame — Maggie Smith — who



Compassionate: William Finn's 70-minute song-cycle *Falsettoland* is a current success

has turned Peter Shaffer's *Letice and Lovage* (at the Barrymore Theatre) into the sort of bona fide British smash that New York has not seen since *Nolse Off* and *The Real Thing* opened back-to-back in 1983-84. Those who saw the production in London might want to give it another look, since both the play and its now wonderfully wigged star seem in much stronger shape than they did on the West End.

In London, the play began promisingly but then fell off in each of its subsequent two acts. On Broadway, the second act proves the emotional heart of a show that did not have one in London, as the extravagant Letice strikes up a rapport with her contrastingly dour former employer, Margaret Tyack's Lotte Schoen. Tyack, too, deserves much of the credit here; whereas in London she often seemed to

be looking on agog as her colleague flailed unfailingly away, the two Maggies in New York play with the complicity that comes from three years of discovering the source of the script's laughs and truths.

Of course, all it takes is one British hit, and suddenly producers open the floodgates. November sees the New York bows of both *Buddy* and *Shadowlands*, while *Another Time*, *Kean* and the Richard

Harris *Henry IV* are being mooted for the spring. Meanwhile, it is Dame Maggie who nightly is bringing Broadway to its feet with the sort of enthusiasm that, decades ago, might have been reserved for Buddy Holly. Screams of approval at a curtain call, directed towards Maggie Smith? As Letice Douffet might say, when it comes to starring on Broadway, there is nothing "mere" about it.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: NEW YORK

FALSETTOLAND, Lucille Lortel Theatre, 121 Christopher Street (212-524 8782).

FORBIDDEN BROADWAY, Theatre East, 211 East 60 Street (212-539 9050).

LETICE AND LOVAGE, Barrymore Theatre, 243 West 47 Street (212-239 6200).

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION, Lincoln Center Theatre, West 65 Street (212-239 6200).

Also now running:

CITY OF ANGELS, Virginia Theatre, 245 West 52 Street (212-246 0102). Tony Award-winning musical, by David Zippel and Cy Coleman, about a fiction writer in 1940s Los Angeles. Directed by Michael Blakemore.

GYPSY, St James Theatre, 246 West 44 Street (212-246 0102). Arthur Laurents's luminous revival of the Stephen Sondheim/Jule Styne musical about the monstrous Mama Rose, played by Linda Lavin.

MACHINAL, Public Theatre, 425 Lafayette Street (212-598 7150). Obscure 1920s play by the American writer Sophie Treadwell, about the debasement and dehumanisation of a young woman.

PIANO LESSON, Walter Kerr Theatre, 219 West 48 Street (212-582 4022).

The latest in black American playwright August Wilson's ongoing examination of black life in the United States this century. A brother and sister struggle over the sacred family heirloom, a piano.

MATT WOLF

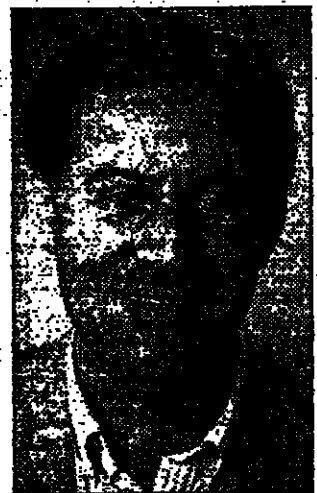
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JANE ASHER

CLASSICAL MUSIC

French leave

James Bowman, one of our leading countertenors, tells Hilary Finch why he is retiring from the stage



Bowman: Britten's choice directionless. I had to be very careful what I did at that time. I just had to take the voice to pieces and start all over again. But I came out of it, and Hall's *Dream* restored my self-confidence. The main thing I learned from him was that, when in doubt, do nothing. Oberon is essentially the still centre, the incredibly calm core of the piece.

By then, Bowman had already played the role in a revelatory production by Elijah Moshinsky, which toured Australia but was never seen in Britain. "He really crystallised the role for me. He emphasised Oberon's menacing, all-pervading influence."

Eight productions and 178 performances on, Bowman now turns to working with director David Meyer, who has worked with Peter Brook's Royal Shakespeare Company production and who has played every male part in the play himself. There is talk of Edwardian lovers, Aztecs, fairy scavengers and fairy rings in Neolithic sites. "It won't be what I call a sackcloth and ashes production. It'll be pleasing to the eyes as well as, I hope, to the ear."

Bowman now spends much of his time recording, working with The King's Consort (this month sees releases on Hyperion of Handel's Italian duets and Schütz's *Christmas Story*). British audiences see little of him mainly because he works mostly in France. "The French baroque scene is, I think, even healthier than ours at the moment. Even for a little recital with baroque instruments in Limoges, hundreds of adoring fans appear from nowhere. They've invited me to give my 25th anniversary celebration in 1992 at the Palais Garnier with the Paris Opera."

A Midsummer Night's Dream opens tonight at Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-578 8910).

Benjamin Britten's last great masterpiece for the stage is arguably *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. After it came the Church Parables, *Owen Wingrave*, *Death in Venice*: nothing so instinctively imaginative as the *Dream*, nothing so clear-sighted in its responses, so lively in its re-creation, nothing so entire. For Britten, the countertenor James Bowman was the Oberon. The composer admitted that it was Bowman who had finally vindicated his choice of the countertenor voice for the role. A new production by Opera London, opening tonight at Sadler's Wells, could well be Bowman's last.

The countertenor who, 25 years ago, took the voice out of the museum glass case, integrated it into a wider repertoire, raised its volume and took it to Tippet's *Ice Break* and back again, may be, unofficially and tentatively, retiring from the stage. "I'm not making a thing of it, but the chances are that I won't do the *Dream* again. Michael Chance sings the part ravishingly, and I think of him very much as my successor. Does that sound pompous? What really thrills me is seeing so many wonderful countertenors around and feeling one has had an influence on them."

Bowman auditioned for the part of Oberon while he was still teaching at a prep school in Oxford. The audition was for a new production of the *Dream* for the opening of the new Snape Maltings Concert Hall in 1967, and Britten taught him the part. The piece had had a somewhat chequered career and lay fallow for some years. "Ben was very keen to revive it," says Bowman. "Alfred Deller was free, I was a new face on the scene, and I was pushed in at the top."

The *Dream* was also the work which, in Peter Hall's Glyndebourne production of 1981, picked Bowman up from a four-year professional rough after the suicide of early music's great prophet, David Munrow. "He was a Svengali figure for me. When he died, there was a terrible void and I felt completely



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TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TELEVISION AND RADIO CHOICE GUIDE

6.00 **Celebs**
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas
8.50 **Daytime** UK presented by Alan
Titchmarsh and Judi Sifers in
Birmingham and Adrian Mills in
Manchester
9.00 **News**, regional news and weather
9.05 **Brainwaves**, Andy Craig with the
daily quiz show 9.25 **Diary of the
Day**, Rosemary Moon with culinary tips
9.30 **People Today**, The show
includes medical advice from the
television doctor
10.00 **News**, regional news and weather
10.05 **Children's BBC** introduced by
Simon Parkin begins with **Playdays**
10.25 **The Family News** 10.35 **People
Today**, Tim Grundy turns the
spotlight on television in **Open Air**
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather
11.05 **Kilroy**, Robert Kilroy-Glik with
another topical discussion
programme 11.45 **Before Noon**, With
Adrian Mills and Paula Phillips in
Manchester and Judi Sifers and
Judi Sifers in Birmingham
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
12.05 **After Noon**, Cliff Michelson and
Wendy Gibson invite viewers to
recall their holiday memories 12.20
Scene Today, Judi Sifers and Alan
Titchmarsh with the live daily
entertainment show 12.55 **Regional
news** and weather
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip
Hem, weather
1.30 **Neighbours**, (Ceefax) 1.50 **Four
Squares**, Quiz game hosted by John
Sachs 2.15 **Knots Landing**, Soap
opera about the less well-heeled side
of the Ewing family

3.00 **Primetime**, David Jacobs with the
programme for people in their prime.
How to handle your doctor, Outward
Bound for the not-quite-teensagers, and
swinging to the sound of the Don
Lusher Big Band 3.40 **Daily Duck
Double Bill**
3.50 **Two by Two**, Nature series
presented by Jenny Powell 4.05 **Quick
Cast Show** with Keith Harris and
Orville 4.20 **Fantastic Max**, Cartoon
adventures of a bionic baby 4.35
Hartbeat, Tony Hart and Margot Wilson
from the Art in Action Festival in
Oxfordshire, (Ceefax)
5.00 **Newsround**, News for children 5.10
Byker Grove, Episode three of the
Tyneside-based drama serial,
(Ceefax)
5.35 **Neighbours** (Ceefax) Northern
Ireland: Sponawide 5.40 **Inside Ulster**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Andrew
Harvey and Jill Dando, Weather
round the UK 6.15 **Neighbours**,
Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **Wogan**, Tony's guests include Karl
Malden, the *Streets of San Francisco*
star, and, previewing the Children in
Need appeal, Sue Cook, Gloria
Huntford, Dave Benson Phillips and
Dylan Winter. Plus music from Dal Amati
7.25 **Double Whammy**, MD: Blood and
Remembrance, More absurd, but
watchable, American comedy drama
about the 19-year-old doctor, (Ceefax)
8.00 **The Trials of Life**, Hunting and
Escaping
9.00 **CHOICE**, David Attenborough,
plunging warily through the Ivory Coast
Jungle, looks and sounds genuinely
scared as he keeps his eye on a bunch
of chimpanzees who have their eyes
on the monkeys they are planning to rip
limb from limb and consume while
still in their death throes. It is the first

time any of us will have heard Sir
David admitting to being a monkey,
about to be devoured by a monkey, and
therefore the sort that chimps seldom
tackle. The Sheldons stunts that
swoop down on the kilted chicks and
gobble them up in mid-air don't have
the same healthy respect for Sir David,
who looks nervous as a kitten and
yet is dive-bombing just like the
screaming victims of Hitchcock's
The Birds. There is another terrific
sequence tonight: Killer whales
tossing seals around like unwanted toys
before making a meal of them. Not
repeat, not, for the faint-hearted.
(Ceefax)
9.50 **Points of View** with Anne Robinson
10.00 **News O'Clock** with Michael
Buerk, Regional news and weather
9.30 **Canned Carrots**, More wry
reflections on life from the Brummie
comedian, Cars, cuts and life as a
Suburbanite's life get the Carrot
treatment, (Ceefax)
10.00 **Sportnight**, European Football,
Action from tonight's major fixtures in
the second round of the three
European club competitions.
Commentary by John Innes and
Barry Davies, Rugby League, Ray
Stubbs previews Great Britain's
opening test match against Australia at
Wembley on Saturday
11.30 **Film: The Great Snipey**
Roadblock (1978) starring Henry Fonda,
Eileen Brennan and John Byner. A
truck driver, trying to avoid the finance
company which wishes to repossess his
truck, picks up a load of eccentric
characters and roars off into the wild blue
yonder. A supporter of the real pty
is that the camera followed him
there and filmed this. Directed by John
Leone 1.00am Weather

ITV LONDON

6.00 **TV-am**
9.25 **Jeopardy!** Role reversal quiz in
which Chris Donat has the answers and
the contestants must guess the
questions 9.55 **Thames News** and
weather
10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** John
Stapleton hosts another topical
discussion
10.40 **This Morning**, Magazine programme
presented by Richard Madeley and Judy
Farrington
12.05 **Alerts**, For the young 12.25 **Home
and Away**, Australian soap 12.55
Thames News and weather
1.00 **News at One** with John Suchet
Weather
1.20 **The Body Works**, Presenters Carol
Keating and Neil Buchanan discuss
health and beauty. Their special
guest is Sally Burton, who reveals her
special secrets for keeping trim
1.50 **A Country Practice**, Australian
drama set in and around a community
health centre 2.20 **Take the High
Road**, Scottish soap set in a Highland
village
2.50 **Tell the Truth**, Fred Dineage
challenges another celebrity panel to
guess which of the contestants is
telling the truth about their unusual
claims. The guests are John Innes
Maggie Philbin, Ian Lavender and Sue
Robbie 3.15 **News headlines** 3.20
Thames News headlines 3.25 **The
Young Doctors**, Australian soap set
in a large city hospital
3.55 **Nellie**, the Edinburgh animated
adventure 4.00 **Dog 4.15 Mike
and Angelo**, Comedy/drama series
starring Tyler Butterworth and Matt
Wright (r) 4.40 **Roll's Cartoon Club**
5.10 **Blockbusters**, Fast-moving quiz
game for teenagers
5.40 **News with Nicholas Owen**, Weather
5.55 **Thames Help**, Jackie Sprockley on
health school meals

6.00 **Home and Away** (r)
6.50 **Thames News** and weather
6.55 **This Is Your Life**, Michael Aspel
opens the red book and emotionally
mugs another unsuspecting worthy
7.20 **Coronation Street**, More life as it
is led by the Rovers Return regulars.
(r)
7.50 **The Match**, Elton Wesley introduces
live coverage of the UEFA Cup second
round first leg match live from Villa
Park where Aston Villa take on top Italian
club Inter Milan. With commentary
from Brian Moore and Jimmy Greaves
and expert analysis from England
manager Graham Taylor
10.00 **News at Ten** with Sandy Gall and
Trevor McDonald, Weather 10.30
Thames News and weather



Jellyfish and Hyder: President Nixon (10.40pm)

10.40 **Nixon: Triumph**
9. CHOICE: Part two of Thames
Television's terrific co-production with
WGBH/Boston ends on the same
sensational note on which the Hollywood
film *All the President's Men* begins —
the tape machines rattling out the first
news of the Watergate break-in. So,
we just have to be patient as we
wait until next Wednesday for *The
Fall of 1974* which, in terms of the price
that had to be paid for folly, was as

spectacular in its own way as that other
Fall, in *Genese*. Tonight, the focus is
on appetite for power and the
disintegration of personality that can
result. It is almost like watching Jekyll
degenerating into Hyde: Nixon the
good guy, who seemed destined to end
up as a footnote to the Kennedy era,
turning into Nixon the bad guy in the
White House, determined
determined to stay there, whatever the
cost
11.40 **Film: Carrie** (1976) starring Sissy
Spacek, Piper Laurie, John Travolta and
Amy Irving. Carrie White is a shy,
lonely girl, kept in a state of sexual
ignorance by her mother, a religious
fanatic. Her classmates hate her and
she is constantly the target of their
practical jokes and verbal bullying.
Unknown to everyone, Carrie
possesses strange telekinetic powers
and, when she is pushed too far, she
unleashes them with devastating fury at
the school dance. A superior horror
film, that has several surprises, none
of them very nice. Directed by Brian De
Palma. Followed by News headlines
1.30 **Very Special Effects**, A behind-the-
scenes look at the tricks used by movie-
makers to turn the unbelievable into
reality
2.15 **Videofashion** with Isaac Mizrahi,
Byrdol, Donna Karan and model Linda
Evangelista
2.40 **America's Top Ten** with Casey
Kasem and Tommy Puett
3.10 **Quiz Night**, Pub and club quiz
hosted by Ross King
3.40 **Books by My Bookshelf**, Former
Young One Adrian Edmondson tells
Brough Scott about his current
reading matter. Followed by News
headlines
4.10 **Wildcard**
4.40 **Friday Year On** (b/w), A nostalgic
look at what was making the news
headlines in October 1940
5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Anne
Leuchars. Ends at 6.00

8.00 **News**
8.15 **Westminster**, A round-up of
yesterday's business in the Lords and
the Commons
9.00 **Daytime on Two**, France and the
French 9.15 **Women's battle** for political
equality 9.45 **A science drama** for the
young 10.00 **A miscellany** for the
very young 11.15 **Part three of
Henderson** 11.35 **The role of television
in promoting science** 12.10
Science: Infra-red light and ultrasonic
sound 12.30 **Equal opportunities** for
the young with disabilities 12.55
Computers in society 1.20 **The
Adventures of Spot** narrated by Paul
Nicholas 1.25 **What's inside?** 1.40
Wider-generated energy
2.00 **News and weather** followed by **You
and Me** (r)
2.15 **Racing from Ascot**, Julian Wilson
introduces live coverage of the United
House Construction Stageschance
(2.30) the EBF Novices Hurdle (3.10);
and the Steel Plate and Sections
Young Chase (3.40). The
commentators are Peter O'Sullivan
and Richard Patten. Includes news and
weather at 3.00 and 3.50
4.00 **Call My Bluff**, More wit and wisdom
in the words duel between Arthur
Marshall and Frank Muir with their
guests, Jen Leeming, Jeffrey Archer,
Karin Anderson and Ian Ogilvy. The
referee is Robert Robinson (r)
4.30 **Fighting Talk**, Individual views on
how the UK could change for the better.
Professor Alan Enthoven, the
American academic who designed the
blueprint for the NHS reforms,
defends what has been done to the
service in his name

5.00 **A World of Their Own**, Tony Baker
with a report from County Durham on
parents trying to give their autistic
children a better chance than they
would otherwise have had.
Presented by Rosemary Hartill (r)
5.30 **Film** 80 with Barry Norman (r)
Includes reviews of *GoodFellas* and *A
Shock to the System* (r)
6.00 **Star Trek: The Next Generation**,
The Enterprise crew heads for the planet
Paradise, and Captain Picard and
Co. may be in for a rough time. (Ceefax)
6.50 **DEF** It begins with Dances Enemy
Update 7.00 **Extra**, European magazine
about life on the Continent 7.40
Rapido, Antoine de Caunes continues
to massacre the English language as
he presents his fast-moving rock music
show
8.10 **Antenna**, More from the investigative
current affairs programme, in *Caverns of
Time*, Australian scientists look into
caves to discover secrets of our climate;
in *A Private War* Martin Stoppard
investigates a new contraceptive pill
which may be safer than those on
offer at the moment; and *Computer
Safety* asks whether we are relying
on computers too much for our own
safety
9.00 **M*A*S*H**, Korean orphans are
invited by the 4077th to a Christmas
party (r)
9.25 **Blood Rights**
9. CHOICE: Mike Phillips's best-
selling thriller about an MP's daughter
(Harmone Norris) who conspires
with some young crooks to make it look
as if she has been abducted, injects
some new blood into a conventional
plot. It is mixed blood and, one way
and another, there's a little of it
about in this eventful tale. It flows
through the veins of the young son of



Brian Bovell (left) and Akim Mogaji (9.25pm)

the newspaperman (Brian Bovell)
who is said to find the "abduction", as
well as through the veins of one of
the crooks he is after (Akim Mogaji). You
might think that a little mixed blood
goes a long way in any yarn, and that by
using this dramatic device to link the
hunter with the hunted, there is a danger
that the whole enterprise will end up
seeming too contrived. Whether this
happens or not, we shall just have to
wait to find out, though it must be said
that episode one of this three-part
serialization packs a considerable
punch. (Ceefax)
10.20 **Film**, *Professor David
Marsden* (1987), A supporter of the right wing
No Turning Back group, argues for
the abolition of the welfare state
10.30 **Newsnight** with Jeremy Paxman
11.15 **The Late Show**, Arts and media
magazine 11.55 **Weather**
12.00 **Fighting Talk**, See 4.30. Ends at
12.35am

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Art of Landscape**, Soothing
music with beautiful images
6.20 **Business Daily**
6.50 **The Channel Four Daily**
9.25 **Scotch**
12.00 **The Parliament Programme** with
Sue Cameron
12.30 **Business Daily** presented by
Susannah Simons
1.00 **Sesame Street**, Educational fun for
pre-school children
2.00 **Film: Valley of the Kings** (1954).
Romantic adventure in which
Egyptologist Robert Taylor is
persuaded by Eleanor Parker to go in
search of a lost tomb to find proof of
a biblical story. Mysterious scenery and
locations, although the story is thin.
Directed by Robert Dineson
3.40 **The Oprah Winfrey Show**, Oprah
goads more of her guests into airing
their traumas in front of millions.
Couples argue with each other about
having more children.
4.30 **Fifteen-to-One**, Quiz show hosted
by William G. Stewart
5.00 **By Word of Mouth**, Stories from old
and young about how storytelling,
currently enjoying a revival, can
enrich life. (Teletext)
5.30 **Flight over Spain**, Cantabria from
the air. (Teletext)
6.00 **The Wonder Years**, American
comedy series about growing up in the
suburbs (r)
6.30 **A Different World**, High school
comedy

7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and
Zainab Badawi
7.50 **Party Political** Comment from a
Conservative politician
8.00 **Brookside**, Liverpool soap set in
a small close. (Teletext)
8.30 **Disappearance**, A report on an
experiment in the United States that
could provide the answer to Britain's
healthcare problems
9.15 **Without Walls: Sexual Intercourse**
Began in 1963.
9. CHOICE: What the title claims is,
of course, nonsense, but only if you read
it biologically. Writer/co-producer
Michael Jones fixes his film in the literary

context of the social-sexual-political-
industrial philosophies of D.H. Lawrence
in general and *Lady Chatterley's
Lover* in particular. Jones puts Penguin
Books back in the dock again to
answer charges of obscenity. It is a
strange reconstruction of the trial
because the prosecution case (albeit
much truncated) is acted, whereas
the defence case is summarised in the
to-camera comments of actual trial
witnesses such as Richard Hoggart and
Dylan Powell. For the rest of the film,
Karl Johnson stumps about as
Lawrence, expounding his well-known
views about the crying need for a sexual
revolution to overthrow his pet hate,
the machine civilisation
10.15 **Sticky Moments** on Tour with
Julian Clary. The campiest-ever game
show host plays travel tricks on his
unsuspecting audience. This week he is
off to Germany to wish them all luck
for the future
11.00 **Sex Talk**, Mark Chase invites people
to discuss what makes us desire other
people and how desire can be kept
alive
11.45 **She-Play: Dancing in the Dark**. This
first in a set of plays written by women is
by Alma Srivastava, and is about a
relationship between a middle-class
Asian girl and an ex-kidnapper who
admits to being HIV positive.
12.00 **Sid Caesar's Show of Shows** (b/w)
featuring a monologue on the ordeal of a
youngster's first dance
12.30am **Rock Steady** Specials. An
interview in Massachusetts with
J.J. Cale (r). Ends at 1.15

ITV VARIATIONS
ANGLIA
As London except: 6.25am-6.50 *Anglia
News* 11.40 *Magnus* 12.55am *Six* with
Karlene 1.00 *Quiz* with Karlene 1.30
3.15 *Musical* 4.00 *Friday News* 4.45-
5.00 *Farming Day*
BORDER
As London except: 1.00pm *Scots* and
Daughters 2.30-2.50 *Scottish Women* 3.25-
3.55 *Scottish News* 4.00 *Scottish News*
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 25-31
● LAW 31
● SPORT 38-42
● WEEKEND MONEY 39-44Survey shows Britain
'in severe recession'

By COLIN NAKBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A NATIONWIDE business survey showing the economy in "severe recession" is certain to fuel concern in Whitehall that the government's counter-inflationary policy is driving the country into full-blown recession.

John Major, the chancellor, has acknowledged the prospect of a pause in growth, as the effects of his squeeze on consumers and companies take effect. But he has rejected shrill warnings from the City, industry and Conservative MPs that government policy is a recipe for recession, defined as two successive quarters of falling output.

The latest quarterly survey by the Association of British

Chambers of Commerce reports "profound gloom". It shows Britain has now entered a deep recession, with domestic orders and deliveries sharply lower, and even the strong export growth seen this year now obliterated.

The third-quarter survey, considered the most extensive ever undertaken, covers 5,951 companies and 1,044,860 employees across industrial and service industries in Britain's 12 economic regions.

The association said British business is "without any question" experiencing a severe recession. Among manufacturing firms, 46 per cent report falling home orders in the third quarter, versus 28 per cent seeing higher orders. The difference, a negative balance of 18 per cent, is unprecedented since the survey started in 1985. Only the Northeast managed to buck the falling orders trend.

The home orders balance was still positive in the first quarter, but deteriorated to minus 4 per cent in the second. The association sees the sharply worsening orders implying a "considerable net contraction" in manufacturing that is only just being picked up in government output data. Coupled with a

negative balance of 11 per cent for home deliveries, after a positive balance of 3 per cent in the second quarter, manufacturing industry is seen to be clearly in recession.

For the first time, the service sector reported more companies with falling home orders and deliveries than increases. The negative balance of 7 per cent followed positive balances of 8 per cent the previous quarter and 18 per cent in the first quarter.

The evidence from 3,000 service sector firms provides a "fairly conclusive indication that the economy as a whole, as opposed to just manufacturing, has now entered recession", the association said.

In his first appearance as chancellor before a business audience, Mr Major bluntly told an ABCC lunch last November that companies would have to export their way out of the tough period ahead. But the survey shows that hopes that the corporate sector is rising to the challenge have evaporated.

Though official September trade figures on Monday showed the smallest monthly deficit since April 1987, they registered a worrying decline of 3 per cent in volume exports between the second

and third quarters, probably reflecting the impact of the stronger pound on exports.

The ABCC said the negative balance of 3 per cent in manufacturing exports orders represents a dramatic swing from the positive balance of 20 per cent in the previous period. It said the figures provide "little hope" of further growth in exports, but do not suggest a marked decline in absolute volumes.

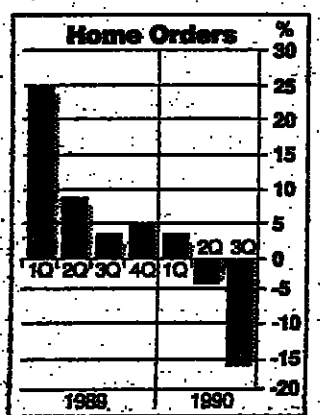
It identified sterling strength as a factor behind the reversal in export growth, which it expects to compound the problems faced by businesses seeking to offset the decline in home demand.

Miles Middleton, president of the association, called the survey results "profoundly worrying". Business is in a deep trough, with domestic and export business, employment and investment all hit. "Relief may be a long time coming and in the meantime both government and the chambers of commerce must do all they can to help businesses to cope," he said.

But the chancellor offered little hope of early help in remarks in the Commons yesterday, stressing further interest cuts would be made only when it was prudent.

The survey was conducted before the base rate was cut to 14 per cent on October 8, but the ABCC believes that the lower cost of borrowing will take a long time to restore business confidence.

No company in Britain can be safe from trouble or collapse, Christopher Morris of Touche Ross, one of the country's leading firms of receivers, said. He listed the three dangers as the economic climate, the environment and fraud, adding this year would see record failures.



Comment, page 27

Caird bid lapses

Severn Trent, the Midlands water utility, was last night allowed to lapse its £60 million bid for Caird Group by the Takeover Panel. Severn Trent pulled out after Caird said it could not meet its profit forecast.

Pennant halted

SHARES in Pennant Properties, the international property development company, were suspended at 1½p at the company's request, "pending clarification of the company's financial position". At the suspension price, Pennant is capitalized at about £681,000. Pennant is controlled by Pennant Holdings, the construction group based in Australia.

Shandwick up

SHANDWICK, the world's largest public relations consultancy, increased taxable profits and fee income by 41 per cent, to £20.95 million and £103.2 million respectively, during the year to the end of July. Earnings rose almost 26 per cent to 18p. A final dividend of 2.61p makes 3.5p (1.88p).

Tempos, page 27

Top two sever links with Allied

By MICHAEL TATE
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SIR MARK Weinberg has severed his remaining links with Allied Dunbar, the financial services arm of BAT Industries. Mike Wilson, Sir Mark's successor as chief executive, and a BAT main board director, is also leaving.

Brian Garraway, deputy chairman of BAT, and credited with a key role in transforming Eagle Star and integrating Farmers Group into the BAT group, takes over as executive chairman. A new chief executive will be sought.

Sir Mark, who is approaching 60, is withdrawing from Allied Dunbar, which, as Hambro Life, he founded in the Sixties. Hambro was acquired by BAT in 1985. Sir Mark has now relinquished the non-executive chairmanship that he assumed in January 1989 when he gave up his executive responsibilities. Last night, Sir Mark said that he wanted to pursue "other options".

Mr Wilson, aged 46, will remain as chief executive until the end of December. He will then act as consultant to Mr Garraway until the end of July 1991. Allied Dunbar, which has some £8.5 billion under management, and last year topped £1 billion in premium income for the first time, is also losing Keith Carby, its managing director (sales), whose departure was also announced yesterday.

Pessimism follows
McKechnie's fall

No optimism in view: Dr Butler, chairman, yesterday "ERM entry will have no significant short-term benefit on the economy and the one-point cut in interest rates will not significantly help demand."

Jim Butler, chairman of McKechnie, the industrial components and plastics group, said (writes Graham Searjeant).

"I am not optimistic about the British economy in any of its aspects," he added. McKechnie's pre-tax profits for the year to end-July fell 28 per cent to £28.1 million after the group experienced de-stocking by customers in Britain and Australia. However, the dividend is maintained at 14.75p.

Dr Butler said the group, which is based in the West Midlands and sells to a wide variety of industries and do-it-

yourself retailers, was relying on further cost-cutting and new products to improve profits this year.

The British workforce was cut by 10 per cent last year and further cuts are expected this year.

Orders levelled out after the period of de-stocking. But Dr Butler said the general level of demand was more likely to continue to fall gently rather than stage any swift recovery.

Michael Ost, the chief executive, said the rate of exchange set at entry to the exchange-rate mechanism did not present any immediate problems and that the group's British factories were competitive with German factories at this rate.

Tempos, page 27



Long way to go: Asil Nadir on an earlier mission

Kvaerner to seek
London
listingBy ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NORWAY'S fifth largest company, the Kvaerner ship building to turbines group, which employs 3,000 people in Britain, will apply for a listing on the International Stock Exchange today.

The company, which expects sales to top £1 billion this year, has already announced that it is to take on 250 extra workers at its Kvaerner Govan shipyard on Clydeside.

Kvaerner has a market capitalisation of £585 million. The London listing, for both its voting "free" A shares and non-voting B shares, will be the first outside Oslo. It hopes for a Stockholm listing later.

The company has more than 12,500 employees worldwide. It is best known for its shipping interests, which include the world's largest fleet of medium-sized gas tankers. Its activities also include the construction of high-speed passenger catamarans, hydro-electric turbines, processing equipment and offshore contracting.

It bought the Kvaerner Govan shipyard from British Shipbuilders in 1988 for £6 million. It then had a workforce of 2,000 and no orders.

Today, the yard, Britain's second-largest merchant ship builder after Harland & Wolff in Belfast, has orders for four ships worth £150 million.

It is also increasing its permanent workforce for the first time in 30 years. The extra 250 jobs will take employment to almost 1,900 by early next year. A £26 million investment programme, already under way, is intended to make the yard competitive.

Kvaerner has 12 other subsidiaries in Britain. They include Kvaerner Kincaid Scotland, which builds ships' engines at Greenock; Kvaerner Boving at Rotherham, which makes hydro-power equipment; and CIT (Computerised Industrial Technology), which supplies computerised maintenance systems at Slough, Berkshire.

Drexel 'broke
its own rules'

FROM JOHN DURIE IN NEW YORK

FRED Joseph, the former chief executive of Drexel Burnham Lambert, has told an American federal court that the firm's high yield department violated company rules in its handling of the Storer Communications buyout.

But under cross-examination yesterday, Mr Joseph portrayed a firm that allowed considerable latitude in employee investments and in which employees gained from junk bond issues they handled.

Mr Joseph was giving evidence in the special hearing to consider how long a jail term, if any, Michael Milken, the former high yield division chief, should serve. In April this year, Mr Milken pleaded guilty to six counts of fraud and paid \$600 million in fines and restitutions.

The court is concentrating on the \$2.5 billion leveraged buyout by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts in 1985, which was financed by Drexel.

In the transaction, Drexel had told KKR it would need to offer equity "kickers" to sell

the dead issues but much of the equity ended up in partnerships comprised of Drexel employees, fund managers whose firm had bought the dead issues and a trust for the children of Mr Milken and his brother, Lowell.

Mr Joseph said the firm had a policy that fund managers should not be offered favoured treatment.

In the case of the Storer issue, Mr Joseph said, "I think it violated that rule."

Mr Joseph said that he took a passing interest in the control over the high yield department, leaving the rest to the firm's compliance division and legal counsel. He said Mr Milken had always cleared any personal investments in Drexel deals with his superiors before they were made.

The government is attempting to prove Mr Milken used equity warrants and other issues to bribe fund managers to take other issues that were more difficult to off-load. The case is due to continue tomorrow and should conclude early next week.

Polly Peck
requires
£30m
now, say
banksBy NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

POLLY Peck International has to produce up to £30 million from its deposits in northern Cyprus today or face the cancellation of its debt standstill agreement and the appointment of administrators.

Asil Nadir, the chairman, is returning from Cyprus to host a board meeting at Polly Peck's Berkeley Square headquarters this afternoon. He will then report to the steering committee of ten people which represents the company's creditors.

One of Polly Peck's bankers said the company has to make the payment "or face serious consequences". Mr Nadir, he added, "must have bankers' drafts available or evidence that the funds are immediately available".

He added: "We not only want the money, but proof of where it came from."

Sources close to the company were still confident last night that Mr Nadir would return with the necessary funds.

The company is due to make a statement this evening on the success of its emergency fund-raising.

Polly Peck originally agreed to make the payments as part of the conditions on a four-week debt moratorium imposed on October 12.

The funds are part of deposits worth an estimated £70 million in Turkey and northern Cyprus. But the company has since failed to make payments on time due to foreign exchange difficulties and the lack of liquidity in the northern Cypriot banking industry.

The banks' steering committee will also receive an interim report from Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant, to keep members up to date with the full report it is compiling.

Richard Stone, Coopers' head of corporate finance, cut short his stay in Cyprus to return to London last night.

In another development, Polly Peck has agreed to meet holders of its mark-denominated Eurobonds in Frankfurt on November 2.

The company will clarify the status of the DM100 million issue.

Arab Banking Corp-Daus, the trustee, has also promised to outline legal steps it can take to ensure repayment.

Cyprus roots, page 27

STERLING HAS JOINED THE ERM
THE TIME IS RIPE FOR AN
ECU MORTGAGEMINIMUM LOAN.
ECU EQUIVALENT OF £50,000INTEREST RATE
11.50%
(APR 12.40%)*

MAXIMUM ADVANCE 60%

SWITCHING FACILITY
INTO STERLING,
AT ANY TIME.
NO CONVERSION FEE

* The APR rate shown is calculated on a repayment mortgage of £50,000 (25 years term) using the current 11.50% lending rate. The APR rate for a £100,000 mortgage would be 12.40%. The ECU interest rate will be the same as the ECU LIBOR rate plus 2.50% (a variable interest rate) shown as 12.40%.

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SAN PAOLO DI TORINO

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

'Confident' Bryant buys land

By JONATHAN PRYNN

BRYANT Group, the housebuilder in which ECC placed a 29 per cent stake in June, is to raise £39.6 million to finance land purchases through a one-for-four rights issue, its second cash call in four years.

Andrew MacKenzie, the managing director, said the company had been seeing a steady supply of housebuilding land coming on to the market at reasonable prices since February. The company cut back sharply on land purchase expenditure in 1989 from its normal £50-£60 million a year because it believed the market was overpriced, he said.

The funds raised will be used to increase Bryant's existing land holdings in central and southern England and to expand its operations into the north of England. The company has already opened a new regional office in Yorkshire.

Last month, Bryant reported a 61 per cent slump in profits from £51.4 million

to £20.1 million and made a £9 million provision against the value of its land bank.

The funds from the issue, which is being underwritten by Robert Fleming, will initially be used to reduce bank borrowings. Bryant reported year-end on-balance sheet gearing of 15 per cent though this figure is considerably higher if off-balance sheet borrowings are taken into account.

The company currently owns 7,200 plots, representing a five-year land bank, with another 3,400 acres under option. The owned plots are valued at an average £20,000, compared with an estimated current market value of £30,000, said Mr MacKenzie. Two-thirds of the plots were acquired before 1988, the peak year for housebuilding land values. Since then, values are estimated to have fallen by about 30 to 40 per cent.

Chris Bryant, the chairman, last month described the 12 months to end of May as "the most difficult year in our industry I have experienced since

becoming chairman in 1962." Announcing the rights issue, he said: "I believe there will be great opportunities to acquire land at attractive prices to ensure the expansion of our housebuilding operations. I am making this move now because I have great confidence in the future of the housebuilding industry."

The Bryant family is not taking up its rights, reducing the holding of family members and the directors from 22 per cent to 17 per cent.

The new shares are priced at 72p, a 14 per cent discount to the market price and a 22 per cent discount to the theoretical ex-rights price. The ECC share stake was placed at 84p. The company's only previous rights issue, in 1986, was at 45p, since when Bryant shares have outperformed the FT All Share index by 66 per cent. The shares closed at 92.5p.

Analysts welcomed the issue and forecast a stream of cash calls from other property groups looking to purchase low cost land without straining their balance sheets.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9460 (-0.0035)
German mark 2.9546 (+0.0186)
Exchange index 94.5 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1654.7 (+21.1)
FT-SE 100 2127.0 (+25.0)
New York Dow Jones 2509.16 (-6.93)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 25298.30 (+227.44)
Closing Prices ... Page 29

Major indices and major changes Page 31

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Rate 14%
3-month Interbank 13½-13¾%
3-month eligible bills 13½-13¾%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7¼-¾%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.25-7.25%
30-year bonds 9½-9½¾%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
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£ DM2.9546 \$ DM1.5177
£ Sfr2.4538 \$ Sfr1.2529
£ FF5.8567 \$ FF3.0825
£ Yen247.73 \$ Yen127.50
£ Index 94.5 \$ Index 60.6
ECU £0.67472 \$ DM1.75756
£ ECU1.43749 \$ SDR1.35520

GOLD

London: Flang
AM \$370.75 pm \$371.65
Close \$371.75-372.25 (£191.00-191.50)
New York
Comex \$371.70-372.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Dec) \$28.30/bbl
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.58	2.64
Austria S	21.70	21.80
Belgium F	63.60	63.80
Canada \$	11.82	11.92
Denmark K	7.35	7.45
Finland Mk	6.90	7.00
France F	3.25	3.35
Germany D	3.00	3.10
Greece P	339.00	340.00
Hong Kong \$	1.15	1.25
India R	14.40	14.50
Italy Lira	200.00	201.00
Japan Yen	3.45	3.55
Netherlands Gld	12.50	12.60
Norway Kr	27.20	27.30
Portugal Esc	200.00	201.00
Spain Ptas	166.67	167.67
Sweden Kr	10.75	10.85
Switzerland Fr	2.00	2.10
Turkey Lira	5.00	5.10
USA \$	1.50	1.55
Venezuela B	27.50	27.60

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Recent Price Index: 223.3 (September)

Brussels seeks new powers for control of oil stocks in EC

FROM PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

SPURRED on by the European Community's sluggish response to the Gulf dispute, Antonio Cardoso e Cunha, European commissioner for energy policy, will push today for new powers giving Brussels the right to order the release of oil stocks and set energy-saving targets for the whole community.

Senhor Cardoso e Cunha will ask fellow commissioners to tighten a 1973 law in order to give the 12 the scope to respond swiftly and in unison when faced with new short-term energy problems.

With commission backing, he would then put the issue before EC energy ministers, who meet in Luxembourg on Monday, although their hasty approval of the measures is considered unlikely.

Officials dismiss as "disjointed" the community's current procedures for the use of emergency energy stocks, and argue the case for a stronger role for the Brussels commission. "If we are to become a single community, it makes no sense to keep non-community mechanisms in such a vital area," they said.

Brussels argues such a move will streamline the EC's emergency decision-making with-

out depriving either national governments or the International Energy Agency in Paris of their sovereignty over oil stocks and energy policy. The objective is to cut red tape and increase efficiency, not to over-centralise policy, officials said.

Fearing a hostile response from energy operators, they are equally adamant that the plan would come into effect only to offset a serious shortage of oil supplies and not intervene on the markets. But they confirmed the commission is still studying ways of curbing excessive speculation in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

In dire emergencies, the directive would give Brussels the sole right to order the release of up to 30 days' worth of the community's overall oil reserves, representing one third of its obligatory stocks under existing EC rules.

The commission would consult national representatives in the process, but would only have to convene EC ministers if it wished to exceed the 30-day limit. Even then, it would only need the consent of a qualified majority of EC governments.

Officials maintain the com-

mission would act only if the IEA foresaw a serious threat to the continuation of world oil supplies. It would then assess the depth of the danger according to its own criteria, and set broad energy-saving targets for no more than three months ahead.

Ministers would be obliged to flesh out the commission's objectives with concrete fuel-saving measures. These could be vetoed by any single member state, although sources said that failure to endorse Brussels' demands could result in court action.

Each member state would also be required to set up its own single body for controlling national oil reserves, which could respond quickly if Brussels called for stocks to be released.

It is believed this would force changes in the Britain, while Germany, France, Denmark and the Netherlands already operate a single system. National bodies would be forced to quote the value of stocks in their control "to promote greater transparency", sources said. Governments would be left to decide whether each national body should actually own, or just control, the country's stocks.

Unit trust watchdog to close

By LINDSAY COOK

MONEY EDITOR
THE unit trust ombudsman scheme is being closed down. It was announced yesterday, just two years after it was started. The cost of complaints had become "unsustainably high" for the unit trust management companies in membership.

From January, complaints about unit trust groups which are members of the scheme will be dealt with by the insurance ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand. The contract of the unit trust ombudsman, Adrian Parsons, had until the end of next June to run.

The future of the unit trust scheme had been under discussion since M&G, the largest group, decided to withdraw from the end of July. The group was expected to pay £20,000 to the scheme in the first year when only two complaints about M&G were referred to the ombudsman. Perpetual and Framlington then said they too were leaving the scheme.

The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau, said the decision was taken because of the "lower-than-expected" number of complaints.

FR Group interim profits down 9%

By JONATHAN PRYNN

CUTS in defence procurement reduced FR Group's pre-tax profits by 9 per cent to £10.8 million in the first half.

The manufacturer of aircraft and electronic equipment, based in Dorset, suffered through the cancellation of an order for components for the eighth batch of Tornado aircraft.

Turnover of the group, where Michael Cobham is chairman, rose 18 per cent to £86.7 million. Earnings fell 11 per cent to 9.6p but the interim dividend is held at 2.23p.

The results "reflect the difficulties which many of the operating companies have experienced as a result of the climate in which the industry has been operating and, in the case of the defence industry, from the considerable delays in the placing of contracts both at home and overseas", the company said.

However, it pointed to a number of contracts awarded in recent weeks including Ministry of Defence and French government orders for Falconet target aircraft. The French contract is the first

overseas sale of Falconet. The company also reported that it has been selected by the French Air Force to supply air-to-air refuelling pods.

Giles Irwin, the finance director, said the three contracts were worth "in excess of £25 million." In the light of these orders and other "significant business opportunities", the company is taking a positive view of its future, "notwithstanding the difficult environment in which the group is operating". Shares lost 5p to 122p.



Cobham: positive view

BANK OF SCOTLAND INTEREST RATE

Bank of Scotland announces the following changes in interest rates effective from 1st November 1990:

Home Loan Rate	14.8% per annum
Stabilised Charging Rate	14.95% per annum

Bank of Scotland, Head Office, The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ



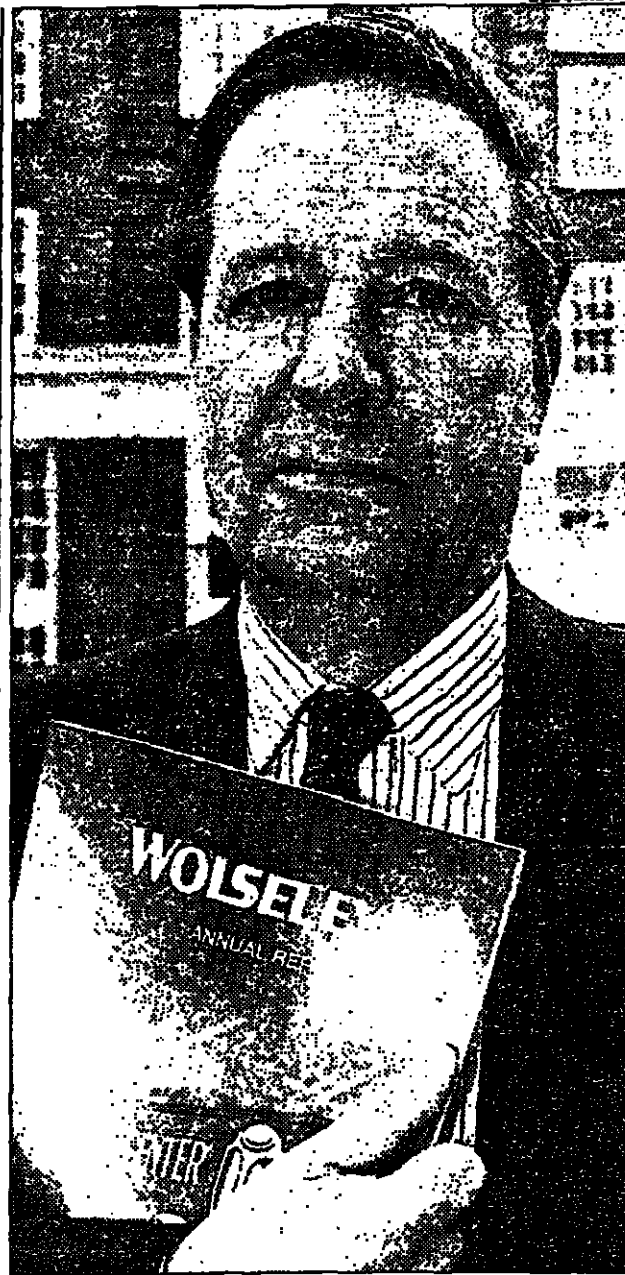
BP in joint Russian oil venture

A BRITISH-NORWEGIAN partnership has signed a letter of intent with the Soviet Union to establish a joint venture for offshore oil drilling in the Caspian Sea near Baku.

British Petroleum and Norway's Statoil signed the agreement with an Azerbaijani oil production enterprise called Caspianmolegaz, said Richard Jones, BP's chief Moscow representative.

BP and Statoil are the first Western companies to take part in developing Baku oil fields, and many more are likely to follow as they seek substitutes for Gulf oil supplies. The Soviet Union is also looking for ways to increase flagging oil production while world prices are high.

According to Mr Jones, the Russian oil and gas ministry has asked a group of Western companies to submit plans by the end of this week for developing Azerbaijani oil.



Confident: Jeremy Lancaster of Wolseley yesterday

Steady Wolseley sounds warning

By OUR CITY STAFF

WOLSELEY, the plumbing and building products distributor, has reported almost unchanged pre-tax profits of £120.7 million (£120.2 million) for the 12 months to end-July, but has given warning of lower profits for this year.

Turnover increased 12 per cent to £1.85 billion, while earnings per share were marginally ahead at 37p. A final dividend of 9p makes 12.1p for the year, a 10 per cent improvement on the previous year.

Jeremy Lancaster, the chairman and managing director, described the results as "exceptional", given the increasingly difficult trading conditions in the United Kingdom and parts of America, particularly southern California.

UK building distribution, which accounted for 37 per cent of profits, reported a 2 per cent increase in profits on sales up 8 per cent. American building distribution was up 20 per cent, while UK manufacturing fell 25 per cent to £24.6 million.

Mr Lancaster said he remained confident about the longer-term prospects for the group, "although the current year's trading is bound to be more difficult than for some years past".

Boost for thrifts bailout

WASHINGTON
THE US House banking committee has approved \$10 billion in new funding to keep the bailout of the country's savings and loan industry running until the end of next February.

The panel also agreed to let the Resolution Trust Corporation, the agency handling the rescue, use \$18.8 billion to expand its borrowing reserves. At the same time, the House agreed that the RTC should pay only insured deposits up to \$100,000 and should not cover uninsured deposits.

Earlier this month, the Treasury requested up to \$57 billion to keep the RTC going over the next 12 months. The RTC was granted \$50 billion for the clean-up in the 1990 fiscal year, but most of this money will be used by the end of the year.

Henry Gonzalez, the banking committee chairman, said Nicholas Brady, the Treasury secretary, had declined an invitation to appear before the committee last week.

Mr Gonzalez said the committee should limit funding until Mr Brady and other administration officials defended their request. (Reuters)

Profits plunge at Japanese brokers

TOKYO
HIGHER interest rates and a sharp drop in share prices sent the earnings of Japan's four main brokers plunging in the six months to September 30.

Katsuhito Sasajima, industry analyst at the Nikko Research Centre, said: "The figures are as expected - bad. It is distressing."

Net profit plunged an average of 60.13 per cent and current profit fell an average of 65.75 per cent for Nomura Securities, Nikko Securities, Daiwa Securities, and Yamaichi Securities, figures from the companies showed yesterday.

Current profit, before extraordinary items and tax, is the most commonly watched indicator of performance. Roger Gough, industry analyst at Baring Securities (Japan), said the cause of the declines were a 35 per cent fall in the value of the Tokyo stock market's Nikkei share index this year and a sharp rise in interest rates.

The yield on the benchmark Japanese bond rose from about 7 per cent in early May to as high as 8.7 per cent at the end of September. Both factors sharply re-

duced trading volume on Japan's stock and bond markets and, as a result, brokerage revenues.

Nomura Securities, the world's biggest broker, posted parent net profit of ¥55.53 billion (£224.45 million) in the six months to September 30, compared with ¥107.87 billion in the same period a year earlier.

Nikko Securities had a net profit of ¥20.25 billion against ¥63.52 billion.

"I don't think they can do much better in the second half," said Robert Zielinski, financial analyst at Jardine Fleming Securities.

The overall market share of the four brokers, the stock market's pillars of support, has gradually been eroded, mostly because of financial deregulation. However, although the pillars may be thinner, they are not crumbling, analysts said.

"Look at the level of profits they're reporting. Any other securities company in the world would be happy," Mr Zielinski said.

"They are still the pillars of the stock market, just making less money." (Reuters)

Plastiseal decline caused by £172,000 exceptional charge

By PHILIP PANGALOS

PLASTISEAL, the maker and installer of windows and doors, which is quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £526,000 to £456,000 in the half year to end-July, as a result of exceptional costs.

Despite tougher trading conditions, operating profits climbed from £526,000 to £628,000. However, there was an exceptional charge of £172,000, made up of a loss of £111,000, caused by the insolvency of a main contractor, and rationalisation costs of £61,000.

Howard Manttan, joint chairman and chief executive, said: "We recognised that the market was going to be thin, so we put more people on the road. It was a cheaper way to get a bigger market share." As a result, group turnover advanced from £7.66 million to £11 million. Earnings per share slipped



Optimistic: Howard Manttan, right, and Mike Price

from 4.5p to 3.7p, but there is a first-time interim dividend of 1.5p. Alex Abercrombie, the finance director, said gearing was at 46 per cent.

Mike Price, the joint chairman, said that some operations would benefit as the

company had received "the British Standard Kitemark for manufacture recently."

Mr Manttan added that the company had received £3 million of orders in the last seven days. The shares held at 71p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Problems delay TSB disposal of Target

TSB Group's disposal of Target Group, its life assurance subsidiary, has been delayed due to wrangling over the value of its life funds and the quality of its sales network. An executive at Hill Samuel, the TSB offshoot which is organising the sale, said the group had hoped for a sale in the early autumn, but was still in discussions with a number of parties.

Hill Samuel has reduced the number of bidders to a handful, but is still arguing over the basis of actuarial valuations of the company. It still hopes to complete the sale before Christmas. The bank paid £227 million for Target in 1987 and is expected to make a loss of up to £100 million on its disposal.

Cambridge Group jumps

CAMBRIDGE Group, the leasing and financial services company based in Dublin, reports a jump in pre-tax profits to £1.96 million (£1.79 million) from £1.23 million in the six months to end-August. Turnover climbed from £166.85 million to £172.1 million. An interim dividend of 10.4p (nil) is being paid on earnings per share of 12.78p (11.94p).

Barbican up to £1.28m

BARBICAN Holdings, the Third Market industrial property and leisure group, lifted pre-tax profits from £901,000 to £1.28 million in the year to end-June, as turnover surged from £2.27 million to £2.94 million. Interest payments jumped from £353,000 to £1.13 million. Earnings per share rose from 0.05p to 0.1p. Once again, there is no dividend.

Clarke Hooper buys

CLARKE Hooper, the US marketing services group, has expanded its Canadian business with two acquisitions. The company has acquired the Michael Peters Design business in Toronto for Can\$25,000. The business will receive a working capital injection of about Can\$200,000. MPD is a specialist package design consultancy and employs 14 people.

Clarke Hooper has also acquired the Spencer Franchise Group, a Canadian design consultancy in the field of corporate literature, annual reports and brochures, also based in Toronto. Clarke Hooper is paying Can\$165,000, with two payments up to Can\$70,000 depending on future profits.

Li to appeal

RONALD Li, the former chairman of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, has applied to appeal against his conviction for fraud. It could take several months before the Appeal Court opens a hearing into the case. Mr Li, aged 61, was convicted on two corruption charges involving company listings and sentenced to four years in jail last week.

Half-time fall at Densitron

DENSITRON International, the electrical component manufacturer and distributor, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £550,000 to £376,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover increased from £10.4 million to £13.1 million. Earnings per share slipped from 2.00p to 1.13p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 0.70p.

Pressac ahead 19%

IMPROVED exports helped Pressac Holdings, the electrical component group, increase pre-tax profits 19 per cent from £2.25 million to £2.68 million in the year to end-July on turnover down from £32.9 million to £32.4 million. Exports to America, the company's main market, were up by 49 per cent, benefiting from strong growth in the automotive sector.

Operating profits grew by 24 per cent to £3.11 million, although interest costs jumped from £247,000 to £337,000. Gearing stood at 62 per cent with interest covered 7.1 times. Earnings per share rose from 8.06p to 9.79p. The final dividend is 1.65p (1.5p), making an improved total of 2.4p (2p) for the year. Geoff White, chief executive, said that the present order book is strong. Shares firmed 7p to 83p.

'Modest results' for Gatt talks

THE Gatt Uruguay round trade talks are on course to end successfully with modest results, including an agreement on the vexed issue of agricultural trade reform, a negotiator says.

Tran Van-Thinh, the European Commission's chief representative at the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, said the European Community would present a firm trade reform proposal to the Gatt negotiations within about 11 days.

He said that if EC farm and trade ministers failed to agree on a firm proposal at a meeting set for Friday, a subsequent meeting of ministers might be needed next week.

"We will end up with results that are ambitious in their realism," Mr Tran told a conference on the Uruguay round.

He said the Uruguay round, set to end in Brussels in December, would probably free up trade in agriculture, textiles and services, among other areas, and strengthen Gatt rules.

The trade liberalisation section of the agreement would be "reasonably modest" and probably cover a five- to ten-year period, he said.

He predicted Gatt negotiators would agree on farm trade reform, which has been the most contentious issue in the talks. "There will be an agricultural accord," he said.

"It is the interest of all of us," Mr Tran said he thought it would be hard to achieve reductions in subsidies or trade barriers of more than 30 per cent in each area, including agriculture.

The European Commission has proposed cutting farm supports by 30 per cent between 1986 and 1996. EC farm ministers have thus far refused to accept the commission proposal.

The United States has proposed far deeper cuts, which would be phased in during 10 years starting in 1991.

"We are seeking reforms that would quietly bring us forward," Mr Tran said. (Reuters)

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Lilley in the heartland

Lilley visits the bleeding heartland

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

The November 5 edition of *Fortune International* is likely to be a best-seller in the boardrooms of British business. The cover story is entitled *How to Manage in a Recession*, with the subtitle, *Just in Case*.

According to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, in its survey of 6,000 businesses in Britain, the recession is already here, it is deep and it is profoundly worrying. The subtitle, in other words, is not necessary and British business, which waited half a decade for the time to be right for entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism, is already having to master the skills which *Fortune* is offering to teach.

By an unhappy coincidence yesterday, Peter Lilley, the teenage scribbler (Okay, so he was an oil analyst), turned politician and now ruling the roost at the Department of Trade and Industry, was also urging British management to smarten up its act. Mr Lilley made what the DTI press office wisely claimed was his first visit to the West Midlands, where he said

British manufacturing companies must be ready to learn good management practice if they wanted to pick up a share of the future world market.

If Mr Lilley had made previous visits to the West Midlands, if he had perhaps paused as he whizzed up the motorway to the party conference at Blackpool last year, he might have learned that kicking Birmingham industrialists when they are on the way down is not the way to attract votes on the way up.

Such a speech, delivered from the secure environment of the Metropole Hotel at the Birmingham NEC, is insensitive to say the least. Didn't his officials warn him of the Chamber of Commerce survey which was due to hit the television news a few hours later? Probably not.

In the industrial heartland around Birmingham, according to the near 500 companies surveyed in that area alone, a 20 per cent decline in home orders

in the second quarter was followed by a 23 per cent fall in the third quarter of this year. Export orders were still 20 per cent ahead in the second quarter, but fell sharply in the third quarter, ending the three months down 20 per cent.

This does not sound to me the sort of problem which will be solved by Mr Lilley's exhortations to British business to learn, among other lessons, "that companies must plan carefully when they propose to introduce new technology". Nor can I see a great deal of help coming from the DTI itself, despite its sloganised *Managing into the 90s* programme. Industry throughout Britain is suffering from a sudden starvation of orders, not only in

home markets, which might be a sign that John Major's medicine is working, but also in export markets, which is the factor which would turn the drama into a crisis.

The situation in the West Midlands is being repeated, according to the Chambers of Commerce, pretty well all across the country. The national decline in home orders has been steep but consistent, all the way down from a 46 per cent increase in the Lawson boom days during the first quarter of 1988 to a 16 per cent reduction in the third quarter of this year.

It's hurting, it must be working. But the export markets on which manufacturing industry

has been pinning its hopes have gone into sudden reverse. In the second quarter, orders were 20 per cent ahead; in the third, 3 per cent down. The welcome, and so far as can be seen genuine, performance in British export performance disclosed by this week's trade figures may therefore be short-lived.

It was not clear from the DTI press release on Mr Lilley's speech (I confess, *The Times* was not there in person) whether or not he was also urging wage restraint while offering the "Learn from Japan and then do better" message to our miserable manufacturers. The Chambers suggest that a significant rise in unit labour costs during the quarter served to undermine competitiveness of British industry, and there was no bail-out from exchange rates. Two-fifths of the companies claim that exchange rates were a major external factor in the decline in export orders. Despite the ERM,

industry may get some help from a falling exchange rate now that the gloss of membership has worn away to reveal that very little has actually changed.

ERM, if it could have saved industry from a recession, has come too late and the pre-party conference cut in interest rates is also unlikely to change the course of history. There are even signs now that the Treasury is prepared to acknowledge that Britain is in a recession, according to the classic American economists' definition.

That is what the warm up routine on wages restraint is really all about: the chancellor warned at the Mansion House that "going rate" increases would lead to "only one result: lost markets, redundancies, plant closures, and ultimately company failures".

The sad fact is, however, that it is already too late to avert that result. Wage restraint now might prevent further loss, but the recession has arrived and there is little that a diversion from the going rate, or a lesson in management from Peter Lilley, can do about it.

SOMEWHERE in northern Cyprus lies the real answer to why Polly Peck is teetering on the brink of administrative receivership.

Only one man knows the answer. That man, Asil Nadir, the Polly Peck chairman, was due to fly into London last night in time for today's meeting with the company's increasingly impatient bankers. Only he knows if his three-day trip to Turkey and Cyprus has produced the £25-30 million that will buy Polly Peck more time.

While Mr Nadir alone has the satisfaction of knowing that vital fact, his trip reaffirms another now known to a much wider circle — that is the true importance of northern Cyprus to Polly Peck's worldwide operations.

Never mind Polly Peck's \$875 million purchase of Del Monte Fresh Fruit and its takeover of Sansui, the Japanese electronics group. When the going got tough it was to northern Cyprus that Mr Nadir immediately got going. It is there that the heart of his fruit to electronics group lies.

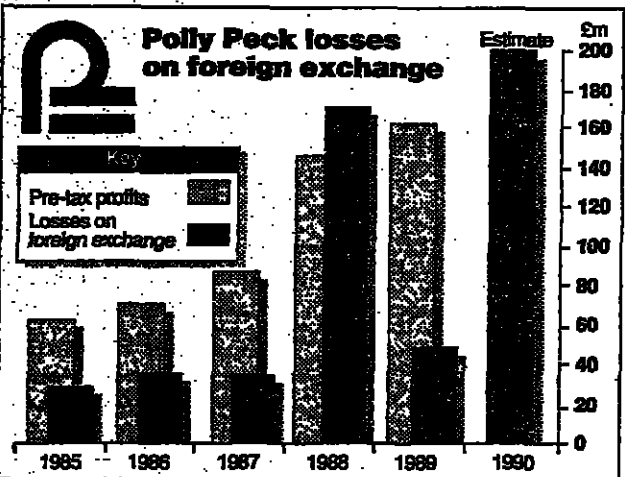
There too is a team from Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountant, charged with investigating Polly Peck's operations by the bankers who have lent the company over £1 billion. An interim report from Coopers may be ready in time for today's meeting.

The Coopers team was dispatched by a group of concerned bankers who had lost confidence with their client. After a summer of allegations into insider dealing and share support, culminating in Mr Nadir being interviewed by the Serious Fraud Office, the banks wanted their money back.

In terms of the finances of Polly Peck, these allegations are a side issue. But what they have caused to be revealed is a fundamental weakness in Polly Peck's finances, a weakness that has left its chairman, who a year ago confidently went out and spent \$557 million on Del Monte Fresh Fruit, desperately scouring the eastern Mediterranean for a mere £25 million.

Polly Peck has two main financial problems. The one Coopers will eventually pay most attention to is the

Cyprus roots of Nadir's little local difficulties



company's treatment of inflation in its accounts. No one has to date suggested that Polly Peck's accounting was not conventional. It was. But it may prove to have been entirely inappropriate given the high rates of local inflation in Cyprus and Turkey.

Polly Peck's problem was that it had no option but to disobey one of the basic rules of conducting business overseas, that of matching overseas assets with overseas borrowings. The unsophisticated Turkish banking system simply did not have the sort of capital that Mr Nadir required. Local interest rates were 50-60 per cent.

As a result, Mr Nadir borrowed in sterling to buy and invest in Polly Peck's growing portfolio of Cypriot assets, ranging from hotels to orange groves. From an earnings point of view the mismatch of assets and borrowings is ideal. Local inflation in Cyprus and Turkey was one of the principal factors behind the huge re-

turns Polly Peck shareholders had grown accustomed to.

But the downside of high inflation in the medium term is the effect on exchange rates. As the Turkish lira depreciated, the sterling value of Polly Peck's assets and working capital fell, and the need for more working capital grew.

Polly Peck has taken this into account by making a series of massive charges against its reserves. In the last five years these charges have totalled over £300 million compared to pre-tax profits of £523 million. If the company survives long enough, the decline in the Turkish lira this year means that exchange variances could account for another £200 million charge in 1990.

In any one year the effect of inflation and the effect of currency depreciation are entirely separate and give no real picture of a company's cash-flow position. But over a longer period of time, as at Polly Peck, the two factors could well have combined to

produce just the sort of cash flow deficit that Mr Nadir is facing now.

Polly Peck's other financial problem relates directly to the difficulties Mr Nadir appears to be having in raising the company-saving sum of £25 million. In theory there should be no problem. Polly Peck was thought to have over £70 million on deposit in northern Cyprus, largely raised from the sale of an 18 per cent stake in Vestel, its Turkish television subsidiary.

Why, then, is the Coopers team having such difficulty in gaining access to the accounts where the money is? More curiously, why is Mr Nadir experiencing similar difficulties?

Some analysts now believe that there must be a big question over whether the profits earned in northern Cyprus are genuinely remit-able. If not, have the undoubtedly large profits earned by the fruit and packaging operation been reinvested in Polly Peck's new leisure group? Mr Nadir had talked about an investment programme of £250 million. This five-hotels chain is increasingly looking like a diversification too far for Mr Nadir.

This investment in high-cost, low-yielding hotels marked the final stage, say some observers, of an ill-advised spending spree that Mr Nadir embarked upon after the Del Monte Fresh Foods acquisition catapulted him into the corporate big time.

Del Monte Fresh Fruit made perfect sense for Polly Peck, unlike the Sansui and leisure investments that followed. As an already very substantial supplier of fresh fruit, it would benefit enormously from Del Monte's systems and from the use of the Del Monte name. Indeed one question the bankers might like to ask themselves before today's meeting is whether Del Monte will make such good commercial sense for anyone else, and therefore justify as high a price?

Is that their problem, or is it Mr Nadir's for a little while longer? We should find out today.

MATTHEW BOND

Cutting costs at McKechnie

TEMPUS

McKECHNIE has maintained its dividend at 14.75p for the year to end-July, despite a 28 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £28.1 million and a marginally steeper fall in earnings per share to 23.8p. That leaves the shares, down 2p to 190p on a good day, yielding 10.4 per cent and selling at 8 times reduced earnings.

That is a buy signal provided the group, which makes a wide variety of plastic and metal components, is not left struggling to maintain its dividend for years ahead.

Jim Butler, the chairman, sums up the dilemma. McKechnie anticipated bad times and cut costs. As a result, it believes it has weathered the worst of the storm of destocking in Britain, followed by an even more severe bout in Australasia, and emerged basically stronger.

The trouble is that there is no sign of improved demand in Britain — about 60 per cent of turnover — or other markets. Indeed, demand still seems to be falling gently.

Recovery and growth must therefore come from new products, such as motor car mouldings and components, and from further cost cutting — the group has kept pay growth about 2 points below inflation.

This year, a cautious view would take pre-tax profits

gently above £30 million and earnings to about 25p. The potential is much greater when markets improve. Finance remains healthy meanwhile. Provided the Monopolies Commission permits the sale of McKechnie's remaining UK brass rod and wire business to Trelleborg of Sweden, gearing should swiftly halve to less than 25 per cent and cash flow remains strong.

And however sharp the downturn, balance sheet problems are unlikely to be a major factor with the interest charge covered 14.4 times.

On the positive side, Needwood, the builders' merchant that Wolseley bought from the receiver at a 25 per cent discount to net assets in June, and which is unlikely to contribute to the bottom line this year, should motor in 1991-92. Wolseley's record on acquisitions is a good one. Familien Northwest, the Oregon company, has doubled profits since it was brought into the group two years ago.

The robust figures surprised and pleased the market, which took the gloomy outlook on trading in its stride. Forecasts for the year are bunched around £100 million, putting the shares, at 286p, on a prospective multiple of around 9. When the upturn comes, few companies will be better placed to benefit.

Shandwick

SHANDWICK must wonder whether the time has come to employ a public relations agency in a final attempt to improve its image in the City. The largest PR company in the business has failed to convince fund managers that it is the exception in a sector that has been brought to its knees by high interest rates

Profit-sharing covers 5.5m in Britain

PROFIT-SHARING schemes now cover almost 5.5 million employees in Britain, with an average profit-sharing allocation per employee of £645 in the last financial year, according to a government-backed survey.

The survey, carried out by the Involvement and Participation Association on funding provided by the employment department, provides the most extensive picture yet of how far profit-sharing has been adopted by companies.

Looking at a range of such schemes, including savings-related programmes, contributory share purchase plans and profit-related pay schemes, as

well as full profit-sharing arrangements, the survey shows that financial participation by employees is mainly a characteristic of large organisations.

Of the employees working for companies operating such schemes, 95 per cent are with those having more than 2,000 people and 78 per cent are with those employing more than 10,000.

The study suggests that the government's profit-related pay (PRP) scheme, introduced in the 1987 Budget, forms only a small proportion of total profit-sharing arrangements.

Although the study gives a warning that many companies

with such schemes might be too small to be included in its survey, PRP schemes account for only 2.6 per cent of the total surveyed. These schemes have a greater coverage in companies with fewer than 500 employees.

About 60 per cent of the employees in companies with profit-sharing arrangements participate in the schemes.

Length of service and salary levels are the principal criteria for eligibility, though in more than half of the schemes surveyed the service qualification is less than two years.

The survey says that in the last financial year, the total value of profit-sharing alloca-

tions was more than £562 million, with the average participant receiving £645.

In 20 per cent of the companies, participants have the option of taking some or all of their bonus in shares or cash, and of these, 28 per cent take it in shares.

The study says "profit-sharing today is much more widespread than it has ever been in the past".

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

Profit Sharing and Employee Shareholding Register. Involvement and Participation Association, 87-95 Tooley Street, London SE1 2RA.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Unfolding for the faithful

REFLECTING a scene straight out of *Yes Minister*, the television series, David Hunt, MP for Wirral West and, for the past five months, Welsh secretary, delighted supporters in Newport, Gwent, with glimpses of life inside the cabinet. Hunt, aged 48, who has travelled more extensively in the principality than any of his predecessors, disclosed details of his preparations for his first cabinet meeting while talking to the Tory party faithful and local businessmen — including Alf Gooding of Gooding Group fame — at a patrons' evening. He had apparently asked civil servants at the Welsh office to furnish him with a folder in which he could carry his papers. After much searching, they came up with something suitable. Hunt duly tucked the folder under his arm as he walked across the threshold of Number 10 on the allotted day, confident that he now looked the part. He then sat down at the table — "thinking how proud my mother would be" — and opened the folder with a business-like flourish. The first piece of paper which greeted his gaze, put there by good-humoured, but anxious, Welsh office mandarins, carried a message carefully pasted together from letters cut out of newspapers and magazines. It read: "For Christ's sake don't say a word." "I shut it quickly

before anyone else had had time to see it," said Hunt, laughing.

FOR a company with such an urban name, London & Metropolitan, the property developer, boasts some distinctly rustic notes to say Caledonian, connections among its management. A release about the suspension of the group's shares named two press contacts, a Mr Lewis and Mr Harris. Who said no man is an island?

Lavender blues

THERE were disgruntled mutterings among Dublin's design community last January when a three-year contract to facilitate Allied Irish Banks was awarded to Wolff-Olins, the London-based corporate image design consultant, against strong domestic competition. But jealousy has turned to malicious glee over the discomfiture of AIB and its imported cosmopolitan as the re-jig has backfired. Wolff-

Olins advised that the covers of AIB chequebooks should be printed in colours of a delicate lavender hue — without taking account of the macho, Guinness-swilling ethos of Ireland's agricultural classes where much of AIB's business lies. Now, particularly in the west of Ireland, customers are reported to be shunning the new chequebooks for being too cissy to be produced in any cattle ring or dung-bespattered market pen. "Absolutely potty" was the scathing comment of one tweedy auctioneer.

Some AIB clients are said to have switched accounts to rival banks whose chequebooks come in more masculine tints. My mole inside the bank reports that Wolff-Olins' designers are now huddled over their drawing boards and colour charts with orders to find the solution — fast.

Cordial cooking

THE interim results from Le Creuset, the French kitchenware manufacturer, quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, which impressed the market yesterday, should make even more appetising reading for the company's shareholders. Not only do they show a 48 per cent increase in pre-tax profits — the company has been transformed since it was taken over by Paul van Zuydam, the South African entrepreneur, in 1987 — but all 190 shareholders are to be sent a free copy of a new Le Creuset French Country Kitchen cookery book, which incorporates about 150 recipes and would

normally retail at £14.99. Van Zuydam, who was previously chief executive of Prestige Group, bought Le Creuset in the face of widespread French political and commercial disapproval, since it is one of the oldest companies in France, dating back to the 16th century. But even the French should now be grudgingly satisfied, especially by his choice of gift.

Hats off to shares

QUILTER Goodison, which has long claimed to be one of the oldest private client stockbrokers in the City, has gone to great lengths to prove just how old it really is. A recent study reveals that the firm, now owned by Commercial Union, has gone through no fewer than 77 mergers in the past 200 years. It can trace its roots back to William Morris & Sons, a company founded in 1771 as, curiously, both a hatter and stockbroker. "They had to choose between hats and shares when the stock exchange came into being," says John Nicholas, a director and former partner of the old Quilter Goodison, who has spent much of his spare time tracing the firm's lineage. "I would be very surprised if there is any other firm with so many parts to it." Last night, a scroll inscribed with the 77 names was presented to former partners and staff at a ceremony, hosted by CU, in the boardroom of its City headquarters.

CAROL LEONARD

Managers 'cause 43% of crises'

COMPANY managers believe that almost half the major problems faced by businesses are caused by poor management, according to a study of corporate crisis management in Britain (Philip Bassett writes).

The study, carried out at Reading University, covered the leading 1,000 companies in Britain and found that 43 per cent of those responding think there is a 50-50 chance of some kind of crisis in their company this year.

Sixty per cent of the companies surveyed had gone through a crisis in the last three years.

Research suggests that the most common causes of crises include sudden market shifts, a loss of public confidence, product failure, new management, serious cash and liquidity problems, strikes and hostile takeovers. But chief executives reported that 43 per cent of crises were due to poor management.

Most companies thought some kind of crisis in their business was inevitable in Britain at some time. Sixty three per cent thought so — lower than in America, where the comparable figure was 89 per cent.

Chief Executives as Crisis Managers, Room 252, Department of Economics, PO Box 218, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AA. £25.50.

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Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Low Company	Pd Bid	Offer	Chg Over bid	Wt %	P/L
310 Western	270	390	+5	90	24 1/2
319 Westcoast	118	135	+1	73	60
320 Westcoast	102	115	+1	73	60
321 Westcoast	203	217	+1	200	88 6 3/4
322 Western (James)	75	115	+12	123	103 65 1/2
323 Western	112	125	+1	115	75 1/2
327 Western (Jags) sat	147	220	+1	157	72 1/4
328 Weyerhaeuser	234	268	+6	151	55 89 1/2
329 Weyerhaeuser	234	268	+6	151	55 89 1/2
331 Weyerhaeuser	234	268	+6	151	55 89 1/2
332 Weyerhaeuser	234	268	+6	151	55 89 1/2
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523 Weyerhaeuser	234	268	+6	151	55 89 1/2
524 Weyerhaeuser	234	268	+6	151	55

BRITISH FUNDS

[illegible][illegible]

100	Robertson (Thomas)	45	45	41	55	61	33
101	Robinson	45	45	41	55	61	33
102	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
103	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
104	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
105	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
106	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
107	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
108	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
109	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
110	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
111	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
112	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
113	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
114	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
115	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
116	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
117	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
118	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
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123	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
124	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
125	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
126	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
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150	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
151	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
152	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
153	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
154	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33
155	Rodriguez	45	45	41	55	61	33

[illegible]

54	Synchro	14	7	-	-	-	-
168	Synchro	168	178	-	107	62	89
139	T & N (AA)	145	143	+8	145	99	47
367	Ti (M)	367	390	-	243	62	83
101	Ti Group	103	168	-	60	57	86
127	Tace	214	219	+8	147	68	204
474	Water Chem BOR	614	-	-34	-	-	-
73	Wz	70	75	-27	133	182	49
930	Wz Alloys	95	105	-3	148	146	51
85	Wood Res	80	80	-	4.5	53	67
128	Wz	80	85	-	-	-	-

[illegible]

395	Compass Co	332	337	.	126	38	133
745	Euro Disney	905	930	+3	.	.	.
29	Euro Lender	47	50	+1	23	47	77

307 Lard	3.6	36	2.8	1	1
8% D= Beers	8%	8%	2.9	1	1
130 Dried	126	134	1.7	1	1
60 Dried	54	69	1.1	1	1

63 Western Areas	58	72			
15 Western Deep	15	15	1		
167 Western Mining	176	140	2		

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

454	Burnham Gasol (gas)	470	474	+9	29.3	6.2	46
292	Carn Energy	312	322	+1			49.3
214	Case Co	330	326	-4	15.0	7.2	18.9

100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400 2500 2600 2700 2800 2900 3000 3100 3200 3300 3400 3500 3600 3700 3800 3900 4000 4100 4200 4300 4400 4500 4600 4700 4800 4900 5000 5100 5200 5300 5400 5500 5600 5700 5800 5900 6000 6100 6200 6300 6400 6500 6600 6700 6800 6900 7000 7100 7200 7300 7400 7500 7600 7700 7800 7900 8000 8100 8200 8300 8400 8500 8600 8700 8800 8900 9000 9100 9200 9300 9400 9500 9600 9700 9800 9900 10000 10100 10200 10300 10400 10500 10600 10700 10800 10900 11000 11100 11200 11300 11400 11500 11600 11700 11800 11900 12000 12100 12200 12300 12400 12500 12600 12700 12800 12900 13000 13100 13200 13300 13400 13500 13600 13700 13800 13900 14000 14100 14200 14300 14400 14500 14600 14700 14800 14900 15000 15100 15200 15300 15400 15500 15600 15700 15800 15900 16000 16100 16200 16300 16400 16500 16600 16700 16800 16900 17000 17100 17200 17300 17400 17500 17600 17700 17800 17900 18000 18100 18200 18300 18400 18500 18600 18700 18800 18900 19000 19100 19200 19300 19400 19500 19600 19700 19800 19900 20000 20100 20200 20300 20400 20500 20600 20700 20800 20900 21000 21100 21200 21300 21400 21500 21600 21700 21800 21900 22000 22100 22200 22300 22400 22500 22600 22700 22800 22900 23000 23100 23200 23300 23400 23500 23600 23700 23800 23900 24000 24100 24200 24300 24400 24500 24600 24700 24800 24900 25000 25100 25200 25300 25400 25500 25600 25700 25800 25900 26000 26100 26200 26300 26400 26500 26600 26700 26800 26900 27000 27100 27200 27300 27400 27500 27600 27700 27800 27900 28000 28100 28200 28300 28400 28500 28600 28700 28800 28900 29000 29100 29200 29300 29400 29500 29600 29700 29800 29900 30000 30100 30200 30300 30400 30500 30600 30700 30800 30900 31000 31100 31200 31300 31400 31500 31600 31700 31800 31900 32000 32100 32200 32300 32400 32500 32600 32700 32800 32900 33000 33100 33200 33300 33400 33500 33600 33700 33800 33900 34000 34100 34200 34300 34400 34500 34600 34700 34800 34900 35000 35100 35200 35300 35400 35500 35600 35700 35800 35900 36000 36100 36200 36300 36400 36500 36600 36700 36800 36900 37000 37100 37200 37300 37400 37500 37600 37700 37800 37900 38000 38100 38200 38300 38400 38500 38600 38700 38800 38900 39000 39100 39200 39300 39400 39500 39600 39700 39800 39900 40000 40100 40200 40300 40400 40500 40600 40700 40800 40900 41000 41100 41200 41300 41400 41500 41600 41700 41800 41900 42000 42100 42200 42300 42400 42500 42600 42700 42800 42900 43000 43100 43200 43300 43400 43500 43600 43700 43800 43900 44000 44100 44200 44300 44400 44500 44600 44700 44800 44900 45000 45100 45200 45300 45400 45500 45600 45700 45800 45900 46000 46100 46200 46300 46400 46500 46600 46700 46800 46900 47000 47100 47200 47300 47400 47500 47600 47700 47800 47900 48000 48100 48200 48300 48400 48500 48600 48700 48800 48900 49000 49100 49200 49300 49400 49500 49600 49700 49800 49900 50000 50100 50200 50300 50400 50500 50600 50700 50800 50900 51000 51100 51200 51300 51400 51500 51600 51700 51800 51900 52000 52100 52200 52300 52400 52500 52600 52700 52800 52900 53000 53100 53200 53300 53400 53500 53600 53700 53800 53900 54000 54100 54200 54300 54400 54500 54600 54700 54800 54900 55000 55100 55200 55300 55400 55500 55600 55700 55800 55900 56000 56100 56200 56300 56400 56500 56600 56700 56800 56900 57000 57100 57200 57300 57400 57500 57600 57700 57800 57900 58000 58100 58200 58300 58400 58500 58600 58700 58800 58900 59000 59100 59200 59300 59400 59500 59600 59700 59800 59900 60000 60100 60200 60300 60400 60500 60600 60700 60800 60900 61000 61100 61200 61300 61400 61500 61600 61700 61800 61900 62000 62100 62200 62300 62400 62500 62600 62700 62800 62900 63000 63100 63200 63300 63400 63500 63600 63700 63800 63900 64000 64100 64200 64300 64400 64500 64600 64700 64800 64900 65000 65100 65200 65300 65400 65500 65600 65700 65800 65900 66000 66100 66200 66300 66400 66500 66600 66700 66800 66900 67000 67100 67200 67300 67400 67500 67600 67700 67800 67900 68000 68100 68200 68300 68400 68500 68600 68700 68800 68900 69000 69100 69200 69300 69400 69500 69600 69700 69800 69900 70000

58 St. Louis	177	180	6.7	37	90
59 St. Louis	178	181	6.8	37	90
60 St. Louis	179	182	6.9	37	90
61 St. Louis	180	183	7.0	37	90
62 St. Louis	181	184	7.1	37	90
63 St. Louis	182	185	7.2	37	90
64 St. Louis	183	186	7.3	37	90
65 St. Louis	184	187	7.4	37	90
66 St. Louis	185	188	7.5	37	90
67 St. Louis	186	189	7.6	37	90
68 St. Louis	187	190	7.7	37	90
69 St. Louis	188	191	7.8	37	90
70 St. Louis	189	192	7.9	37	90
71 St. Louis	190	193	8.0	37	90
72 St. Louis	191	194	8.1	37	90
73 St. Louis	192	195	8.2	37	90
74 St. Louis	193	196	8.3	37	90
75 St. Louis	194	197	8.4	37	90
76 St. Louis	195	198	8.5	37	90
77 St. Louis	196	199	8.6	37	90
78 St. Louis	197	200	8.7	37	90
79 St. Louis	198	201	8.8	37	90
80 St. Louis	199	202	8.9	37	90
81 St. Louis	200	203	9.0	37	90
82 St. Louis	201	204	9.1	37	90
83 St. Louis	202	205	9.2	37	90
84 St. Louis	203	206	9.3	37	90
85 St. Louis	204	207	9.4	37	90
86 St. Louis	205	208	9.5	37	90
87 St. Louis	206	209	9.6	37	90
88 St. Louis	207	210	9.7	37	90
89 St. Louis	208	211	9.8	37	90
90 St. Louis	209	212	9.9	37	90
91 St. Louis	210	213	10.0	37	90
92 St. Louis	211	214	10.1	37	90
93 St. Louis	212	215	10.2	37	90
94 St. Louis	213	216	10.3	37	90
95 St. Louis	214	217	10.4	37	90
96 St. Louis	215	218	10.5	37	90
97 St. Louis	216	219	10.6	37	90
98 St. Louis	217	220	10.7	37	90
99 St. Louis	218	221	10.8	37	90
100 St. Louis	219	222	10.9	37	90

8 Drexel Estate	17	14	—	10	74	—
10 Debenham Tension	80	88	—	103	123	44
14 De Morgan	12	15	—	18	129	76

3 Prop Security	106	110		208	25	241
3 Reform	74	71		23	73	88
9 Reform	71	75	+3	23	73	88
9 Reform				23		

TEXTILES

TRANSPORT

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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● Ex dividend ● Ex all b Forecast dividend ● Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment h Pro-merger figures n Forecast earnings ● Ex other f Ex nights ● Ex susp or share split f Tax-free .. No significant data.

Le Creuset beats retail gloom to rise 48%

By PHILIP PANGALOS

LE CREUSET, the French cookware manufacturer, which came to the Unlisted Securities Market in July 1989, defied a gloomy retail sector with a 48 per cent advance in first-half profits.

Pre-tax profits rose from £655,000 to £970,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover grew from £14.7 million to £15.8 million.

Paul van Zuydam, the chairman, said that margins had been improved as a result of tight management.

He added that the company had benefited from a combination of new products and better distribution and marketing.

The company, which does 70 per cent of its business in the second half, has found that its customers are less vulnerable to the current economic squeeze than the customers of other companies in the sector.

Britain performed best and accounted for almost one-third of sales, while France and America each accounted for about 25 to 30 per cent of sales.

Earnings per share climb from 3.4p to 3.9p. There is an interim dividend of Fr0.13 for the first time.

Mr van Zuydam said that trading continued to be resilient. The company's shares eased 2p to 161p.

BTG wins rights to clean power

THE British Technology Group (BTG), the state-owned intellectual property group anticipating privatisation, has secured the world-wide licensing rights to a unique clean power system capable of significantly cutting sulphur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions from coal and oil-fired power stations.

The system turns solid and liquid fuels into a clean gas, allowing generators to cut emissions without compromising efficiency.

The process, called clean power generation, also allows generators to use high-sulphur content coals and heavy waste oils.

Prices are marked sharply higher as war fears ease

SENTIMENT took a turn for the better in the equity market as the threat of war in the Middle East began to fade and investors began to draw comfort from this week's trade figures and the prospect of another cut in interest rates.

A resilient performance overnight on Wall Street and an early rise in the FT-SE 100 index December series in the futures market saw prices marked sharply higher. But there was little follow-through from the institutions and the turnover of 376 million shares was artificially boosted by a large number of bed-and-breakfast deals and a £50 million programme trade.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 25 points higher at 2,127, having been 32.3 up. Some brokers are now forecasting a year-end index of about 2,400. The FT index of 30 shares rose 21.1 points to 1,654.7.

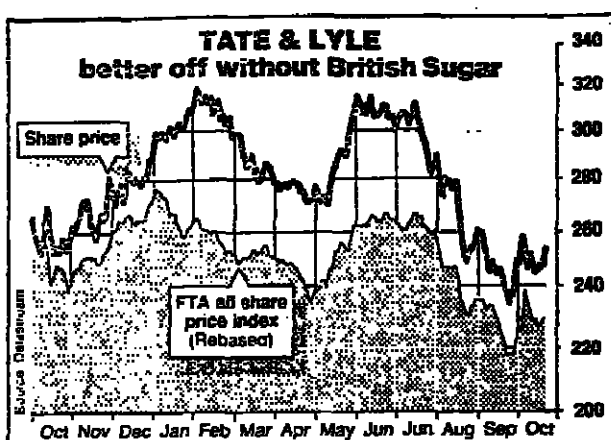
Government securities rose 1/2% at the longer end, encouraged by a firmer pound. Among the leaders, ICI firmed 8p to 847p in the wake of its decision to pay £160 million for the remaining 30 per cent of Tioxide. ICI's third-quarter figures tomorrow are expected to show pre-tax profits down from £306 million to about £180 million.

Elsewhere among the leaders, the dollar-earners came into line with their overnight gains in New York. Reuters rose 7p to 703p. Glaxo 22p to 792p. Wellcome 15p to 508p. and BAT Industries 17p to 576p.

Tiphook, the container and trailer rentals group, continued to benefit from a strong buy recommendation from County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, gaining 18p to 382p.

Boxmore, the paper and packaging group, hardened 4p to 439p despite a profits downgrade by its own broker, Hoare Govett.

Water shares continued their recovery, boosted by the hopes of strong dividend growth. Rises were seen in Anglian, 6p to 234p, Northumbrian, 5p to 242p, North West, 5p to 236p, Severn Trent, 3p to 202p, Southern,



Racal Electronics climbed 10p to 162p in heavy turnover which saw almost 8 million shares traded as stories were revived that Cable and Wireless had started stake-building. Cable bought a 3 per cent holding a couple of years ago before Racal Electronics floated off Racal Telecom. C&W fell 10p to 420p, not helped by reports that a seller

of 1.5 million shares was doing the rounds. Racal Telecom advanced 10p to 269p.

Granada Group closed 6p dearer at 156p despite another big downgrade by Kleinwort Benson, the broker. Kleinwort has cut its forecast for the year to last month by £9 million to £119 million and for the current year by £32 million to £110 million. It blames rising sugar costs and the downturn in consumer spending.

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the Monopolies Commission. Hoare seems to think it unlikely that Tate will be given the go-ahead, which should soothe City fears about funding such a deal. Meanwhile, the group is expected to receive permission to market Sucralose, its artificial sweetener, in America next year.

Full-year figures from Wolseley, the plumbing supplies group, showed the effect that high interest rates are having on the building industry with pre-tax profits virtually static at £120.7 million. But a positive view of prospects lifted the shares 6p to 286p.

There was little to cheer about in the full-year figures from McKechie, the metals and plastics group. Pre-tax profits were down from £39.1 million to £28 million.

Better than expected results lifted the Shawbrook public relations company by 8p to 120p and Pressac responded to cheerful trading news with a rise of 10p to 86p.

Barbican Holdings, the Third Market leisure and industrial property group, held steady at 14p after reporting full-year pre-tax profits up from £900,000 to £1.3 million and net assets 60 per cent higher at £13 million.

Ron Popely, the chairman, is now pursuing a move to the USM and a consolidation of the shares.

Oil shares responded positively to a firmer oil price after Monday's sharp fall. Dealers reported selective support in thin trading with BP up 2p to 340p, Bursmah 9p to 472p, Enterprise 5p to 640p, Lasso 7p to 432p, Shell 6p to 439p and Ultramar 2p to 326p.

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WORLD MARKETS

Seventh advance in a row for Nikkei

Tokyo SHARES closed higher with buying, spurred by lower oil prices, overwhelming rounds of profit-taking throughout the day. The Nikkei index rose for the seventh consecutive trading day, a record for 1990, in moderately active dealings.

The Nikkei advanced by 227.44 points, or 0.91 per cent, to 25,298.30. The Nikkei charged up by 276.92 points in the first 15 minutes as the market digested the news that the price of oil had fallen by more than \$5 a barrel in New York on Monday, the biggest one-day drop ever.

Volume of 550 million shares compared with 600 million on Monday.

Brokers were divided on the short-term outlook with bulls saying the market's worst declines are over and bears citing continued uncertainty in the Middle East as a portent of losses.

© Hong Kong — Stocks achieved one of their sharpest single-day gains as the belief that Gulf tensions had eased a little tempted foreign institutional buyers back.

The Hang Seng index climbed 65.67 points to 3,081.23, the third strongest advance since the invasion on August 2. The broader-based Hong Kong index rose, 42.68 to 2,022.25.

© Frankfurt — Prices closed nearly 3 per cent higher in moderate dealings, boosted by domestic investors' position covering and some foreign institutional buying. After slipping in the first half-hour, the Dax index rose on a slow stream of buy orders to end 39.83 points, or 2.7 per cent, higher at 1,514.34.

© Sydney — A surge in the shares of The News Corporation and the purchase of stock in Elders DXL by Asahi, a Japanese brewer, boosted trading and sent prices sharply higher. The All-Ordinaries index rose 18.5 points to 1,383.1.

© Singapore — Prices closed sharply higher across the board in line with regional bourses on the back of declining oil prices. The Straits Times Industrial Index jumped 36.67 points, or 3.12 per cent, to 1,209.90. (Reuter)

WALL STREET

Dow down 11 points

New York BLUE chips reduced their losses by the late morning as oil prices continued to remain at weaker levels and the dollar firmed. Bonds remained weak. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 11 points to 2,505.09 after dipping to a low of 2,495.00. The Middle East and the American budget remained the main topics of interest. (Reuter)

Bonds remained weak: The										(Continued)																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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23	August 22	August 21	August 20	August 19	August 18	August 17	August 16	August 15	August 14	August 13	August 12	August 11	August 10	August 9	August 8	August 7	August 6	August 5	August 4	August 3	August 2	August 1	July 31	July 30	July 29	July 28	July 27	July 26	July 25	July 24	July 23	July 22	July 21	July 20	July 19	July 18	July 17	July 16	July 15	July 14	July 13	July 12	July 11	July 10	July 9	July 8	July 7	July 6	July 5	July 4	July 3	July 2	July 1	June 30	June 29	June 28	June 27	June 26	June 25	June 24	June 23	June 22	June 21	June 20	June 19	June 18	June 17	June 16	June 15	June 14	June 13	June 12	June 11	June 10	June 9	June 8	June 7	June 6	June 5	June 4	June 3	June 2	June 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	April 30	April 29	April 28	April 27	April 26	April 25	April 24	April 23	April 22	April 21	April 20	April 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Debt rescheduling revives share price at News Corp

The privatisation of Banco Português do Atlântico will form a large part of that figure.

Mr Searby said the increase in debt to Aus\$10.5 billion stemmed from investments in enterprises that would help build the group's trading base. "We aim to replace the whole or a substantial part of our short-term debt with long-term debt," he said.

blanket support to the corporation's proposals to change its articles of association to allow the formation of limited-voting shares via a proposed bonus issue.

This would enable News Corp to raise capital without diluting the Murdoch family's controlling minority stake in the group.

Mr Murdoch denied News Corp had threatened to leave Australia, the group's birthplace. But he said it had threatened to delist its shares from Australian exchanges if the limited-voting plan failed to win approval. News Corp's net profit fell sharply last year due to losses at the fledgling Sky Television network and the cost of an eight-month pilots' dispute in Australia.

In London, News Corp's shares rose 20p to 243p. (Reuters)

Chrysler's shares have been boosted by the Fiat talks, trading at \$11.50 compared to a 52-week low of \$9.13, despite expectations of a poor profit for the third quarter due to be released in the next few days.

PHILIPS, the troubled Dutch consumer electronics group, has reached a \$9.25 million out-of-court settlement with American investors who brought a class action against the company over alleged misinformation of shareholders (Wolfgang Münchau writes). The suit was filed in May when the size of Philips' problems became known. They led to the resignation of Cor van der Klugt, the chairman. Philips may lose Fl 2 billion (£600 million) this year.

[illegible]

Index	Value	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (%)	Yearly change (%)	Daily change (US\$)	Yearly change (US\$)
The World	589.0	0.3	-30.2	0.6	-21.8	0.1	-15.7
(free)	112.6	0.3	-30.2	0.5	-21.8	0.1	-15.7
EAFE	1057.6	0.3	-32.1	0.6	-27.4	0.1	-18.0
(free)	106.7	0.3	-32.2	0.5	-27.6	0.1	-18.2
Europe	617.3	1.5	-18.9	1.8	-13.2	1.3	-2.0
(free)	133.4	1.6	-18.4	1.3	-15.2	1.4	-1.5
Nth America	386.8	0.1	-26.3	-0.1	-10.9	-0.1	-11.0
Nordic	1198.3	0.6	-23.0	0.7	-16.6	0.4	-7.0
(free)	199.4	0.6	-15.2	0.7	-8.6	0.4	2.3
Pacific	2396.8	-0.5	-39.6	-0.1	-34.8	-0.7	-27.0
Far East	3478.4	-0.6	-39.9	-0.2	-35.6	-0.8	-27.4
Australia	242.4	1.4	-30.2	1.6	-14.4	1.2	-15.7
Austria	1400.5	1.9	-5.7	2.1	2.2	1.7	13.8
Belgium	725.3	1.5	-23.3	1.5	-21.9	1.3	-11.1
Canada	359.0	0.5	-33.6	-0.1	-18.8	0.3	-19.8
Denmark	93.9	0.9	-10.0	1.0	-1.8	0.7	8.7
Finland	836.6	0.5	-44.8	-0.1	-40.6	-0.7	-35.4
(free)	82.8	-0.7	-44.4	-0.3	-40.2	-0.9	-32.9
France	616.3	1.7	-23.8	1.8	-19.1	1.5	-8.0
Germany	727.5	2.4	-20.9	2.6	-14.3	2.2	-4.5
Hong Kong	1974.6	2.8	-11.0	2.6	7.2	2.6	7.5
Italy	285.3	2.2	-26.0	2.3	-19.9	2.0	-10.6
Japan	3564.0	-0.8	-40.6	-0.3	-38.6	-1.0	-28.3
Netherlands	748.3	1.7	-20.9	1.8	-14.4	1.5	-4.5
New Zealand	65.9	0.5	-38.0	0.7	-24.0	0.3	-22.8
Norway	1249.8	-0.1	-39.9	0.2	0.6	-0.1	12.4
(free)	292.2	0.0	-49.9	0.1	2.8	-0.2	-7.0
Spain	1420.3	0.9	-28.3	1.3	-21.0	0.7	-17.0
Switzerland	176.8	2.3	-25.3	2.2	-21.6	2.1	-9.8
Sweden	1267.0	0.7	-27.8	0.8	-30.9	0.5	-12.8
(free)	187.2	0.7	-22.7	0.7	-15.4	0.5	-6.7
Switzerland	754.4	1.0	-17.5	1.0	-17.2	0.8	-0.4
(free)	114.8	1.1	-17.8	1.1	-17.5	0.9	-0.7
UK	631.0	1.1	-12.5	1.1	-12.5	0.9	5.7
USA	359.2	0.1	-25.7	-0.1	-10.2	-0.1	-10.2

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Atlantic Resources	37	Pollack Gp *	38
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Danmore, Inc. Tst (100¢)	41	Saxon Healthcare	141
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Paramount	92	Sinter (Wm) N/P	25
		Socrano N/P	3
		Wyswye N/P	4-2

(Issue price in brackets)

RNCs:		New York:	
RNC Group	621p (+12p)	Dow Jones	2509.16 (-6.53*)
Racal Elceti	162.2p (+10.1p)	S&P Composite	314.33 (-0.43*)
Rechem	452.2p (+10.1p)	Tokyo:	
Welcome	507.0p (+15p)	Nikkei Average	25298.30 (+227.44)
Barclays	371.2p (+10.1p)	Hong Kong:	
Grand Met	583p (+12p)	HK Composite	3091.23 (+65.57)
GenCorp	714.2p (+10p)	Amsterdam:	
Highland Dist	233p (+8p)	CBS Tendency	98.4 (+1.8)
CRH	234.3p (+8p)	Sydney: AO	1363.1 (+18.5)
Sotheby's	537.7p (+25p)	Frankfurt: DAX	1514.34 (+39.93)
Glaxo	791.7p (+22p)	General	525.96 (+68.33)
Micro Focus	742.7p (+15p)	Paris: CAC	435.90 (+0.85)
Harland Simon	505p (+15p)	Zurich: S&K Gen	506.6 (+2.3)
Liberty	435p (+20p)	London:	
		FT AllShare	1025.74 (+10.81)
FT:		FT - "500"	1132.69 (+11.47)
Telcel	276.7p (-27p)	FT. Gold Mines	169.0 (+0.6)
Cable & Wireless	419.9p (-10p)	FT. Fixed Interest	88.86 (+0.06)
Steele	247.0p (-10p)	FT. Govt Secs	79.87 (+0.11)
Gibbs & Dandy	100p (-10p)	Bergans	180.0
Elys Wimbledon	1050p (-25p)	US\$ (vs Yr)	378.00
		US\$/Australian\$	105.94 (+0.63)

[illegible]

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
October 15	October 28	January 24	February 4

Call options were taken out on: 23/10/90 Aberfoyle, Amstrad, Applied Holographics, Burton Group, Davy Corp, M.L Labs, Tuskar.

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The annual amount of the tax varied, according to the total unladen weight of the vehicle, between DM1,000 and DM9,000. The tax might be paid for periods extending in days, months.

Article 2 of the law of April 19, 1990 also amended the law on the tax on motor vehicles (*Kraftfahrzeugsteuer*) and introduced a reduced level payable on that tax for vehicles according to a scale which, in accordance with the total weight of the vehicle but which could not exceed DM3,500 per year. Article 5 of the law provided that it was to enter into force on July 1, 1990.

The Commission had brought an application, pursuant to Article 144 of the EEC Treaty, for a declaration that the German Republic was in breach of its obligations under Article 301 of the Treaty of April 30, 1950, had failed to fulfil its obligations

VAT exemption

secretaris van Financiën v. Koninklijke Nederlandse OR Company Ltd NV Rotterdam
C-185/89
The State Council, Slyn, President of the Fifth Chamber and Member of the Ministry of Finance, Mr. Zelen, J. C. Ribeiro de Almeida and F. Vassica
General C. O. Lenz
Amsterdam, May 21, 1990 (Judgment, June 25)
exemption from value-added tax of the supply of goods for fuelling and provisioning vessels was applicable only to the supply of goods to a shipping company which would use those goods for fuelling and provisioning its vessels and did not therefore be extended to the supply of those goods at either stage in the distribution chain.
The claimant had sold to Forsythe International BV, two consignments of bunker fuel which had been purchased by Velker from Edelstaatschappij Verhoeven of Rotterdam which had in turn purchased one of them from the Dutch Vessels Amsterdam BV (OVA).
Those two consignments were covered by OVA and Forsythe tankers leased by Forsythe and subsequently loaded on to sailing vessels.

The invoice submitted by OVA to Verhoeven mentioned no turnover tax. The bills submitted by Verhoeven to Velker contained a note "VAT: tariff 0%". In its turn, Velker applied the zero rate of VAT to the two sales invoiced to Forsythe.

The Dutch tax authorities took the view that the supply of fuel made by Velker to Forsythe could not have the benefit of an exemption from VAT and therefore served a supplementary notice of assessment on Velker with respect to turnover tax.

The Gerechtshof (Regional Court of Appeal), The Hague, annulled the notice of assessment. The Netherlands Secretary of State for Finance, however, lodged an appeal before the Hoge Raad (Supreme Court of the Netherlands) which stayed the proceedings and submitted two questions to the Court of Justice of the European Communities on the interpretation of Article 15(4) of the Council Directive of May 17, 1977 (No 17/388/EEC) on the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to turnover taxes — common system of value added tax: uniform basis of assessment (OJ 1977 No L 245, p1).

goods for fuel

In its judgment the European Court of Justice ruled as follows:

By its second question the Dutch court asked whether the exemption provided for by article 15(4) of the Sixth Directive was applicable only to deliveries of goods to a shipping undertaking which intended to use these goods for the purpose of fuelling and provisioning its vessels, or whether it equally extended to supplies made at earlier stages in the distribution chain, subject to the goods finally being used for fuelling and provisioning of vessels.

The expression "supply of goods for the fuelling and provisioning of vessels" might give rise to several literal interpretations. It might indeed refer to supplies whose recipient would use the goods for supplying his own vessels or to supplies, at whatever stage they were made, of goods which would subsequently be used for that purpose.

Therefore necessary, in order to interpret that phrase, to examine the context in which it appeared, taking into consideration the purposes and the scheme of the Sixth Directive.

The Sixth Directive provided for a wide scope of application of VAT covering all the eco-

Selling and pr

economic activities of producers, traders and persons supplying services.

The provisions relating to exemption from VAT were to be interpreted strictly, since they were derogations from the general principle according to which turnover tax was levied on any supply of goods or any provision of services by a taxable person in return for consideration.

With regard to article 15(4), transactions relating to the supply of goods mentioned in that paragraph were exempt because they were assimilated to exportation of goods.

Just as, in the case of export transactions, the exemption provided for by article 15(4) was applicable exclusively to the final delivery of goods exported by the vendor or on his behalf, similarly the exemption provided for by article 15(4) could only apply to the supply of goods to a shipping underwriter for use on board ships for fuelling and provisioning its vessels and could not therefore be extended to a supply of goods carried out at a prior stage in the distribution chain.

An extension of the exemption to stages earlier than the final delivery of goods to the

shipping undertaking would require member states to establish checking and surveillance procedures in order to be sure of the final destination of goods supplied under a tax exemption.

Far from resulting in administrative simplification, such procedures would, for stallions and horses concerned, result in constraints which would be irreconcilable with the "correct and straightforward application" provided for by the first sentence of article 15.

In the light of that answer it was necessary to determine whether, in order to give rise to such an exemption, the loading of the goods on to the vessels had essentially to be the same as the supply to the shipping undertaking.

By article 5(1) of the Sixth Directive, the supply of goods was defined as "The transfer of the right to dispose of tangible property as owner".

On the basis of that definition, it was sufficient to note that neither the wording of article 15(4), nor the context in which that provision appeared, nor the purpose which it pursued, could justify an interpretation of those provisions in such a way that the storage of goods, after their supply but before the actual

of vessels

operation of loading on board, could result in the loss of the benefit of exemption.

That interpretation would make it possible to ensure that traders did not subsequently use goods supplied under a tax exemption for purposes other than fuelling and provisioning vessels.

However, that ground alone could not justify such an interpretation were it not for the fact that, in addition, it was for member states, as provided by the first sentence of article 15 of the Sixth Directive to lay down the conditions necessary for "preventing any possible evidence of abuse".

On those grounds the European Court (Fifth Chamber) ruled:

Article 15(4) of the Sixth Directive was to be interpreted as meaning that only supplies of goods made to a shipping undertaking which would use those goods for fuelling and provisioning its vessels could be regarded as a supply of goods intended for the fuelling or provisioning of vessels, although it was not necessary for the loading on board vessels to coincide in practice with the supply to the shipping undertaking.

absence of substantial changes in the market situation by comparison with the conditions which had existed for a prolonged period that such a risk was likely to arise in the following months.

With regard to the specific argument of the German Government to the effect on the environment, it had been established with sufficient certainty that the application of the disputed tax to carriers from other member states was more likely to result in transfers of road traffic to rail and water transport than of parts of the transport market of other member states to German carriers.

In those circumstances, the condition relating to urgency, was satisfied.

The Federal Republic's application that, in the event of interim measures being granted, the Commission would be required to provide a guarantee of DM500,000,000 was rejected.

On those grounds the Court ordered that:

1 The Federal Republic of Germany was to suspend, pending delivery of the judgment in the main proceedings, the levying on vehicles registered in other member states of the road tax provided for by the law relating to taxes on the use of federal roads and motorways by heavy goods vehicles of April 30, 1990.

2 Costs were reserved.

longer period than such a risk was likely to arise in the

that law provided for a new tax on the use of roads ("Straßenbenutzungsgebühr") payable, subject to certain exceptions, by all heavy roads vehicles whose total permissible laden weight exceeded 18 tons, wherever they were registered, and which used federal motorways and roads outside built-up areas.

The annual amount of the tax varied, according to the total weight of the vehicle, between DM1,000 and DM3,000. The tax might be paid for periods defined in days, weeks or months.

Article 2 of the law of April 10, 1990 also amended the law on the tax on motor vehicles (*Kraftfahrzeugsteuer*) and introduced a reduced level payable on that tax for all vehicles belonging to a scale which earned in accordance with the total weight of the vehicle but which could not exceed DM3,500 per year. Article 5 of the law provided that it was to enter into force on July 1, 1990.

The Commission had brought an application, pursuant to Article 164 of the EEC Treaty, to the European Court of Justice, on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, by a decision of April 30, 1990 had failed to fulfil its obligations

Secretary van Financien v.
the International Oil Com-
pany Ltd NV Rotterdam
C-185/89

the Sir Gordon Slynn, Pres-
ident, the Lord Goff of Chelmsford
and the Lord of Hale, J.C.
de Almeida and F. v.
vise
vocate General C. O. Lenz
announced May 2

gment June 22

the transaction from value-
added tax on the supply of goods
the fueling and provisioning
vessels was applicable only to
supply of goods to a shipping
operator, which would use
the goods for fueling and
provisioning its vessels and
the goods were extended
the supply of goods at an
earlier stage in the distribu-
tion chain.

the holder had sold to Forsythe
International BV, two consign-
ments of bunker fuel which had
been purchased by Velker from
Indematastappp
the Netherlands which had in
fact received one of them
the Ole Verwarming Amster-
dam BV (OVA).

the consignments were
covered by OVA and Forsythe
had leased by Forsythe and
subsequently loaded on to sea-
going vessels.

The invoice submitted by OVA to Verhoeven mentioned no turnover tax. The bills submitted by Verhoeven to 'A' and 'B' stated that 'A' and 'B' had to pay a turnover tax at the tariff 0%. In its turn, Velker supplied the zero rate of VAT to the two sales invoiced to Forsythe.

The Dutch tax authorities took the view that the supply of goods by Velker to Forsythe could not have the benefit of an exemption from VAT and therefore served a supplementary notice of assessment on Velker with respect to turnover tax.

The Gerechtshof (Regional Court of Appeal), The Hague, annulled the notice of assessment. The Netherlands Secretary of State for Finance, however, lodged an appeal before the Hoge Raad (Supreme Court of the Netherlands) which stayed the proceedings and referred the question to the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Justice on the interpretation of article 13(4) of the Sixth Council Directive of May 17, 1977 (No 17/388/EEC) on the harmonisation of the laws of the member states relating to turnover taxes — common system of value added tax: uniform basis of assessment (OJ 1977 No L 245, p. 1).

In its judgment the European Court of Justice ruled as follows:

By its second question the Directorate-General asks whether the exemption provided for by article 15(4) of the Sixth Directive was applicable only to deliveries of goods to a shipping undertaking which intended to use those goods for the purpose of fuelling and provisioning of vessels or for supplies made at earlier stages in the distribution chain, subject to the goods finally being used for fuelling and provisioning of vessels.

The expression "supply of goods for the fuelling and provisioning of vessels" might give rise to several literal interpretations. It might indeed refer to supplies whose recipients would use the goods for supplying his own vessels or to supplies, at whatever stage they were made, which would subsequently be used for that purpose.

It was therefore necessary, in order to interpret that phrase, to examine the context in which it appeared, taking into consideration the purposes and the scheme of the Sixth Directive.

The Sixth Directive provided for a wide scope of application of VAT covering all the eco-

commercial activities of producers, traders and persons supplying services. The provisions relating to exemption from VAT were to be interpreted strictly, since they were derogations from the general principle according to which turnover tax was levied on any supply of goods by a taxable person in return for consideration.

With regard to article 15(4), transactions relating to the supply of vessels mentioned in that paragraph were exempt because they were assimilated to exports of goods.

Just as, in the case of export transactions, the exemption provided for by article 15(4) was applicable exclusively to the final delivery of goods exported by the vendor or on his behalf, similarly the exemption provided for by article 15(4) could only apply to the supply of goods to a shipping undertaking which was to use those goods for fuelling and provisioning its vessels and could not therefore be extended to a supply of goods carried out at a prior stage in the distribution chain.

An extension of the exemption to stages earlier than the final delivery of goods to the

shipping undertaking would require member states to establish checking and control systems in order to be sure of the final destination of goods supplied under a tax exemption. Far from resulting in administrative simplification, such procedures would, for states and traders concerned, result in a considerable increase in costs, irreconcilable with the "correct and straightforward application" provided for by the first sentence of article 15.

In the light of that answer it was necessary to determine whether the exemption, the loading of the goods on to the vessels had essentially to be the same as the supply to the shipping undertaking.

By article 5(1) of the Sixth Directive, the supply of goods for use on board a vessel is exempted from the right to dispose of tangible property as owner¹.

In the light of that definition, it was sufficient to note that neither the wording of article 15(4), nor the context in which that provision appeared, nor the purpose which it pursued, could justify an interpretation of those provisions in such a way that the storage of goods, after their supply but before the actual

operation of loading on board, could result in the loss of the benefit of exemption.

This interpretation would make it possible to ensure that traders did not subsequently use goods supplied under a tax exemption for purposes other than fuelling and provisioning vessels.

However, that ground alone could not justify such an interpretation were it not for the fact that, in addition, it was for member states, as provided by the first sentence of article 15 of the Sixth Directive to lay down the conditions necessary for the exemption of any possible evidence or abuse.

On those grounds the European Court (Fifth Chamber) ruled: Article 15(4) of the Sixth Directive was to be interpreted as meaning that only supplies of goods used for a shipping undertaking could be treated as goods for fuelling and provisioning its vessels and could be regarded as supply of goods intended for the fuelling or provisioning of vessels, although it was not necessary for the loading on board vessels to coincide in practice with the supply to the shipping undertaking.

following months.

With regard to the specific argument of the German Government relating to the effect on the main market, it had now been established with sufficient certainty that the application of the disputed tax to carriers from other member states was more likely to lead to transfers of road traffic to rail and water transport than of parts of the transport market of other member states to German carriers.

In those circumstances, the condition relating to urgency, was satisfied.

The Federal Republic's application that, in the event of interim measures being granted, the Commission would be required to provide a guarantee of DM500,000,000 was rejected.

On those grounds the Court ordered:

1 The Federal Republic of Germany was to suspend pending delivery of the judgment in the main proceedings, the levying on vehicles registered in other member states of the road tax provided for by the law relating to taxes on the use of federal roads and motorways by heavy roads vehicles of April 30, 1960.

2 Costs were reserved.

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Office running costs eat into the profits

The cost of providing office accommodation for a member of staff in central London can be almost as much as an employee's annual salary, the Anderlyn Consultancy concludes in a report on office costs. The startling statistic emerges in returns from 64 companies throughout the country in the consultancy's sixth annual Scope (Study of the Cost of Office Premises in England) survey.

Roger Henderson, the chairman of the office interior design and space planning consultancy, warns that the true cost to business of providing office accommodation is showing signs of going through the roof. He says the key to controlling expenditure is first understanding it, and that "businesses which take a head-in-the-sand attitude towards the cost of office premises run the risk of paying a heavy price for their ignorance".

In central London, the price of providing office accommodation, including rents, rates and building running costs, works out at £8,211 a person or £47.17 a sq ft, compared with £5,530 (£34.57 a sq ft) in the home counties and £4,051 (£18.39 a sq ft) in the rest of England. These total costs show a substantial increase over last year, when they were £7,327, £4,731 and £2,601 respectively.

The figure of £8,211 a person for the average cost in central London is based on an average rent and rates of about £34 a sq ft figure in the sample. This is much higher

Businesses are facing soaring costs as the price of office space continues to rise

In prime locations, adding about £2,000 for each £10 a sq ft increase in the combined rent and rates bill. For some businesses, this will mean that the cost of providing and maintaining accommodation roughly equates to employment costs.

Rent, virtually a fixed cost, is the biggest single item on the expenditure bill, but running costs, "which businesses can seek to control", Mr Henderson says, can comprise up to one third of overall annual office costs. The largest item on the running cost bill for rented offices is likely to be the service charge (25 per cent), followed by building management costs (20 per cent), electricity (18 per cent) and general repairs and maintenance (17 per cent). They comprise 80 per cent of the average office running cost. These are the areas that will have to be attacked if businesses are to control expenditure, he believes.

Even without the service charge element, there has been a significant increase over last year in each geographical area, amounting overall to more than 30 per cent. Repairs and maintenance, building management and energy have

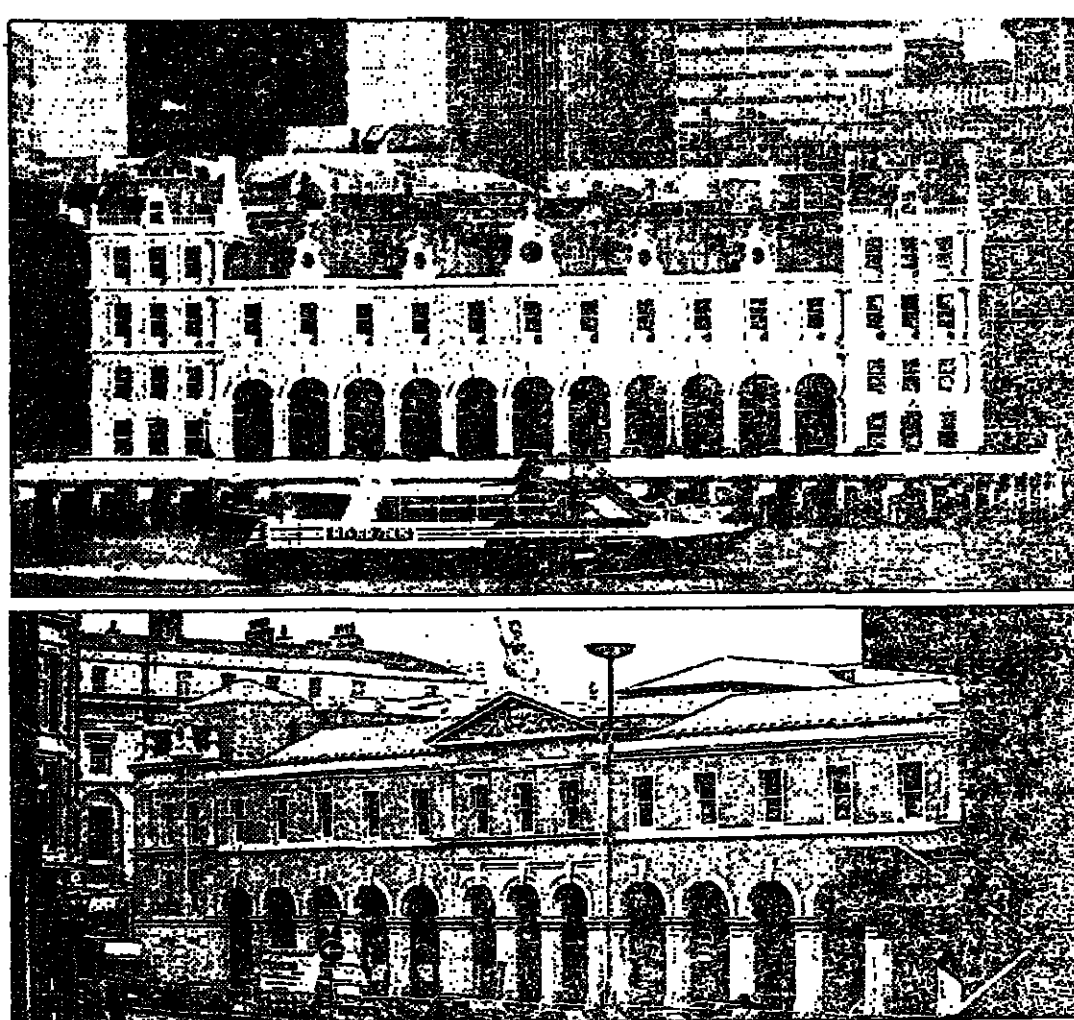
been the prime contributors.

The high cost of central London offices has led to a squeeze on office space, with the average space per person being reduced from 194 sq ft in 1989 to 168 sq ft this year, compared with 206 sq ft in the rest of England and 183 sq ft in the home counties. Nearly one in five offices surveyed reported that they were at or beyond their maximum capacity in terms of the number of staff accommodated, and another one in five were within 10 per cent of capacity.

New buildings are more energy-efficient than older ones. Offices less than five years old pay an average of £1.34 a sq ft on energy compared with £2.91 a sq ft in buildings between 21 and 50 years old.

Looking at the staff's welfare, the survey finds that illness related strictly to buildings, the "sick building syndrome", caused by bad design, and particularly air-conditioning systems, seems not as common as once feared. Mr Henderson says that only 14 per cent of companies, all in fully or partially air-conditioned buildings, reported it, and virtually all examples were eradicated by common sense measures, ranging from improved humidity and ventilation to "giving the person attention".

Scope 90, £65, from Anderlyn Consultancy, 209 Harrow Road, London W2 5EG.



Billingsgate, the former fish market on the Thames in the City of London (river aspect above, street aspect below) now converted into offices, has come on the market with a new 25-year lease and a rent of £3.25 million a year.

The building is at present let to Citibank, which has decided not to occupy it, and is to be disposed of by St Martins Property Corporation and Citibank. They offer the incentive of the first two years rent-free.

The redeveloped Billingsgate, incorporating an award-winning design by Richard Rogers, has about 91,000 sq ft of space, including a data/computer centre, and the agents, Jones Lang Wootton and Richard Main & Co, describe the scheme as "probably the most highly specified office space available in Europe". The price equals about £20 a sq ft for the lower floors, and £47.50 a sq ft for the dealing and upper floors.

IN THE MARKET

West End winner

The biggest West End lettings deal of the year has been concluded with the announcement by Kumagai Gumi UK Ltd and London & Metropolitan of the letting of 20 St James's Square, London SW1, the former Distillers company headquarters, to Grand Metropolitan, which will occupy the 70,000 sq ft building as its corporate headquarters. The rental may, it is believed, exceed £70 a sq ft.

Kumagai Gumi acquired the building in 1987 and, in association with London & Metropolitan, restored part of the existing building, including the original Robert Adam house, and built new offices behind it.

The north of England is to be the site of what it claimed to be one of Europe's most advanced business parks. Doxford business park is launched today by Sunderland borough council and Akeler Developments/NCC Property. Business parks are dotted all over the south of England, but this is a strong boost for the north, providing a £125 million scheme for 1.25 million sq ft of office and commercial space. The park, to be built on 79 acres in Sunderland, incorporates Britain's newest enterprise zone, which offers sizeable tax incentives for UK and overseas investors. Due for completion in 1995, it will include Sunderland's first four-star hotel.

The surveyors Gerald Eve acted for Plessey Pension Trust in its £5 million purchase of Albemarle House, London W1, mentioned in this column on October 10.

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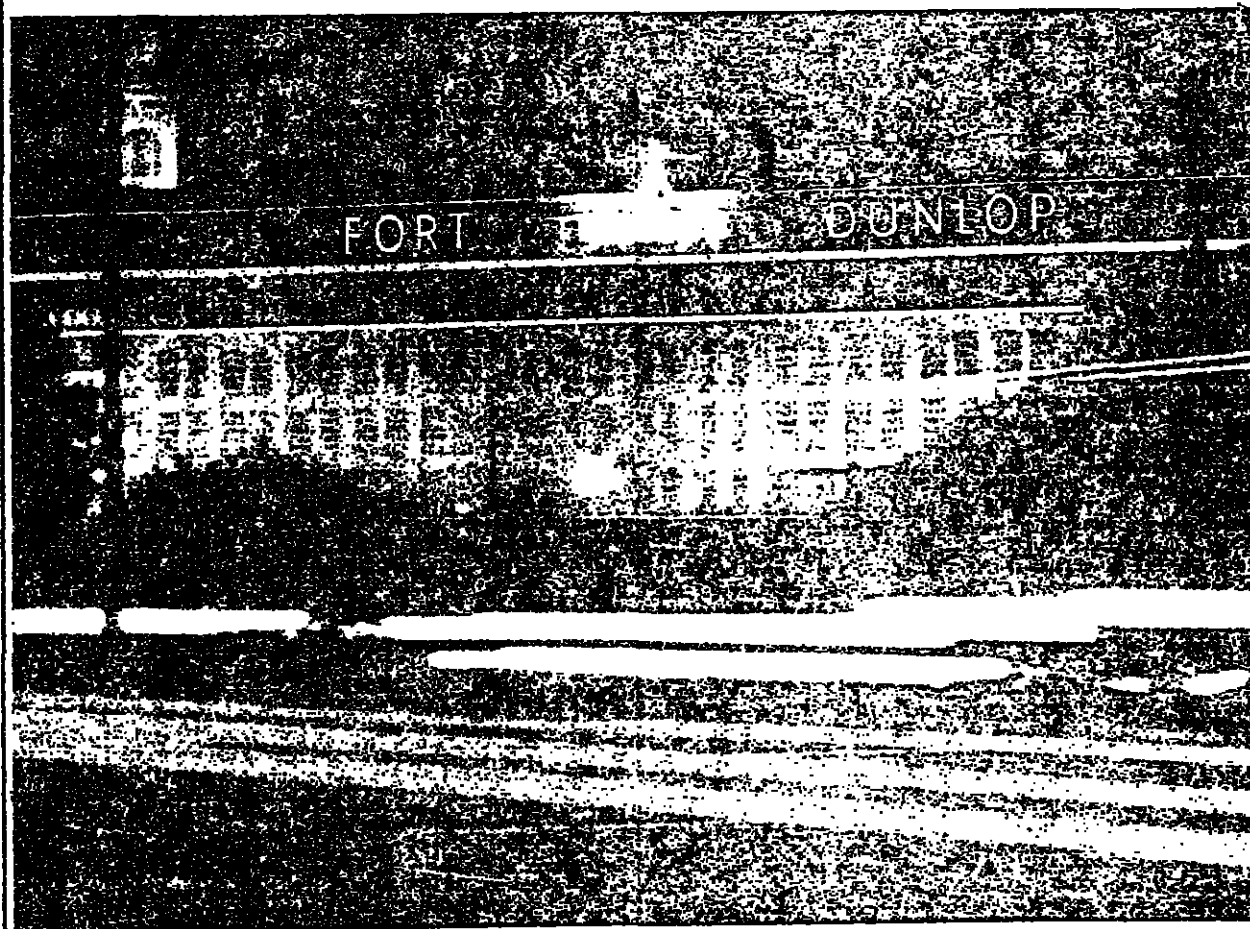
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Nohaldun to head long-range treble for Easterby team as levy is fixed at £41.5 million

By MANDARIN

NOHALDUN, from Peter Easterby's successful multi-purpose stable in Yorkshire, has a sound chance of winning the valuable United House Construction Handicap Chase at Ascot today, and he is my nap even though he has not raced since early in May.

Just a quick glance at *Timeform*'s invaluable review of the past season, *Chasers and Hurdles 1989-90* (£59), shows that Nohaldun is clearly a clean-winded horse, who comes to hand early and easily after a lengthy rest.

When he won first time out at Cheltenham last year, he was making a successful seasonal debut for the fifth time in six seasons.

Nohaldun is also well suited by a strong-run race over two miles on firm ground. His ground is guaranteed, while the good gallop is likely to be set by Hogmanay and Clever Folly, both habitual front-runners.

Last season, Nohaldun's most important success was achieved at Liverpool where he won the Captain Morgan Amiret Chase at the start of the Grand National programme.

On that occasion two of his rivals today, Clever Folly (seventh) and Fu's Lady (tenth) were well in arrears. The handicapper has allowed Clever Folly 4lb for a 13-length beating and that looks insufficient.

Later in the spring, Nohaldun contested another valuable handicap chase over a yard's course and distance. On that occasion, though, he could manage only fifth place behind Wm. G. Help, Hogmanay, Campese, Ash and Fritz Asst, but after a really bad mistake at the



Easterby: his Nohaldun is a strong Ascot fancy

second-last fence had put paid to what appeared a winning chance.

Hogmanay beat Broad Beam, who was at Sandown last January. When Campese-Ash also accounted for the same horse at Cheltenham earlier this month, he did so in such style that he left the indelible impression that he will pose the greatest threat to Nohaldun on this occasion, even though my nap was rated 23lb his superior at the end of last season. As a result of that Cheltenham win, the gap has narrowed to 17lb.

On the corresponding occasion last year, Philip Hobbs, the successful young West Country trainer from Minehead, captured the Steel Plate And Sections Young Chasers Qualifier with Gay Edition. Now he can win it again with Pegasus, who should be excused that unfortunate lapse at Wincanton 11 days ago, when, with the benefit of hindsight, his rider, Peter Hobbs, was clearly not fit enough to do the horse justice. Previously, Pegasus had won in style at Cheltenham.

If Nohaldun is successful at Ascot, he could easily become the middle leg of what would be a long-range treble for his versatile trainer, who will be looking to Dawson City (1.30) and Nineties (3.30) to win at Chester and Newcastle as well.

Nineties tackles the Billy Bow Handicap Hurdle, at Gosforth Park fresh from beating the in-form Chantry Bartle at Carlisle, while Dawson City, with Willie Carson in the saddle, is assured of the soft ground that he relishes when contesting the Granada Tonight Handicap at Chester.

On the Roodey, Pat Eddery can complete a double on Roger De Berkeard (2.30) and Anadyne (3.0) but Ventura, his sidekick John Gosden in the Granada Studios Tour Stakes, should not have the measure of Staggered, who lived up to his tall home reputation, even if eventually winning at York 11 days ago.

Finally, make a note of Peter Walford's raiders Moonlight (2.15) and Sidedale (2.45) at Edinburgh. Both will enjoy the softish ground.

Swinburn has first century

WALTER Swinburn achieved a long-held personal ambition, 100 winners in a season, for the first time with an armchair rider on Lillian Bayless in the Queensferry Stakes at Chester yesterday.

Swinburn has reached the nervous nineties three times in the past and in 1984 suffered the extreme frustration of finishing on 99, but this time he has reached to his century with 20 winners in the last 15 days.

RACING will receive £41.53 million from levy on betting turnover next year, according to agreement yesterday between bookmakers and the Horserace Betting Levy Board.

The 1991-92 agreement is a compromise following weeks of negotiations with the bookmakers having offered just a 10 per cent increase to £38.3 million and the Levy Board having budgeted to receive £44.1 million.

The two sides were divided yesterday over the financial impact of the settlement. The Levy Board insisted it would prompt a significant reappraisal of the allocation of levy funds, but the bookmakers argued it was sufficient to enable the board to honour its commitments to prize-money and other areas of racing.

The £41.53 million yield from the 30th annual levy scheme is based on estimated betting turnover of £4.54 billion for 1991-2. It represents an increase of £2.3 million on this year's expected levy return of £39.1 million.

The levy, which betting shop printers pay on top of the eight per cent betting duty, goes towards prize-money, course improvement and other services, such as racecourse patrol cameras and the Horserace Forensic Laboratory.

Sir Ian Trevelyan, who retired last year, admitted yesterday the negotiations had been tough. The agreement was concluded just over a week before the October 31 deadline and the Levy Board's secretary being called in to arbitrate for the second time in three years.

"We have not achieved the target yield for which we initially hoped," said Sir Ian. "The bookmakers' Committee improved significantly on their offer of £38.3 million during the negotiations and at the end of the day all my colleagues and I agreed, albeit with some reluctance, that a settlement at around £41.5 million was both realistic in current circumstances and preferable to a determination by the home secretary."

The Levy Board and bookmakers agreed the principle of indexation would be applied to the fixed fee for the 31st scheme. The 30th levy scheme will see the levy-free slice increase to £220,000 per shop while the fixed fee will increase to £185. There will be no change in the levy and credit rate of £1 in £51 and £1 in £119. The charge to on-course bookmakers will increase for the first time in years, from £10 to £30.

Piggott lands four in Ireland

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT, DUBLIN

"THAT must be a good omen for Royal Ascud," was the reaction of Vincent O'Brien after Lester Piggott had turned in a fine display to complete a four-furlong, four-horse victory at the Curragh yesterday.

The local crowd gave Piggott a tremendous ovation on his return to Ireland and his accumulator paid odds of 35/1 even though they all started favourite.

The sequence was started by Legal Profession, carrying the

colours of Jacqueline O'Brien, who was backed on to 13-8 on for the Arctic Wind Maiden and was never off the bit to win by four lengths.

Piggott had to work a good deal harder to keep Fairy Folk in front in a three-way photo finish to the Eila Reiford Fillies Race. She had eased out in the betting to 9-4, but responded to the drive of Piggott, holding on by a head from Class Dominator.

only member of the quartet to carry the colours of Clive Thoroughbreds, the heat of Sheikh Mohammed's new owner Taunting by three-quarters of a length in the Jack Kitch Maiden, while a marvellous afternoon was capped by a well-timed run on Pavee-B, 10-1 in the Hugh Lupus Race. "It is certainly good to be back riding for Vincent," said Piggott as he took the saddle off Pavee-B.

Dermot Browne release page 5

EDINBURGH

Selections

2.15 Moonlight, 2.45 Sidedale, 3.15 Sawaki, 3.45 Kintyre, 4.15 Mies G. alacur, 4.45 Svetlana Prosser, 5.15 Lady's Mantle.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.15 Batish, 2.45 Vote In Favour, 3.15 Sawaki, 3.45 Fletch, 4.15 Soft Call.

Going: good (good to soft patches)

Draw: 5f, low numbers best

2.15 FISHERMAN'S FRIEND MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O; £2,525: 1m) (11 runners)

1. 322 BAATHA 14 (H) Thomson Jones 9-0 R Hills 10
2. 2220 DANCING TUDOR 14 (J) Stevenson 9-0 K Dorney 10
3. 2221 DANCING TUDOR 14 (J) Stevenson 9-0 K Dorney 10
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11. 2221 DANCING TUDOR 14 (J) Stevenson 9-0 K Dorney 10

2.45 PLAX GRADUATION STAKES (£2,489: 1m) (5)

1. 2221 DANCING TUDOR 14 (J) Stevenson 9-0 K Dorney 10
2. 2221 DANCING TUDOR 14 (J) Stevenson 9-0 K Dorney 10
3. 2221 DANCING TUDOR 14 (J) Stevenson 9-0 K Dorney 10
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5. 2221 DANCING TUDOR 14 (J) Stevenson 9-0 K Dorney 10

3.15 FOOD BROKERS TROPHY (£3,174: 7f) (15)

1. 3431 BAWJAY 74 (H) Thomson Jones 9-0 R Hills 10
2. 4010 DRY 25 (J) Stevenson 9-0 K Dorney 10
3. 4010 DRY 25 (J) Stevenson 9-0 K Dorney 10
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3.45 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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4.00 SIMON BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,648: 2m) (12)

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4.30 KIELDER HANDICAP CHASE (£2,896: 2m 4f) (7)

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5.00 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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5.30 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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6.00 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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7.00 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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8.00 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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8.30 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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9.00 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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9.30 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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10.00 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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10.30 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

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11.00 BILLY BOW HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,785: 2m) (13)

FOOTBALL

Villa's weapons not up to waging war at this level

By DAVID MILLER

ASTON Villa's UEFA Cup meeting with Inter Milan, the most testing for the Midlands club since it won the European Cup eight years ago, may be determined as much by the mind as by the feet. Both sides have problems which they must try to hide, and how well they do it is likely to decide who goes into the second leg of the second round with an advantage.

Inter, who with Sampdoria are a point behind Milan, the Italian league leaders, on Sunday conceded three goals. The fact that they beat Pisa 6-3 was some compensation. Serena scoring three times, yet Josef Venglos, who switched to the match with his assistant, John Ward, is aware that Inter's defence is not all it might be and will hope to exploit the fact at Villa Park tonight.

Casirino, who missed the second leg of the first round against the Czechoslovak side, Banik Ostrava, because of an injury in the first leg, will play tonight, but his form this

season for what, after two months, is a mid-table side, is not such as to suggest Inter need tremble. A substantial responsibility rests with the modest, down-to-earth Platt who, after his spectacular campaign during the World Cup, is learning the fine art of a hard-earned commodity for all but the most exceptional.

Can Platt and Casirino find the gap that Pisa did? Inter are sufficiently experienced not to be intimidated by a Villa crowd that will be thirsting for success on the return to European competition, so Villa should not expect too much from their home advantage.

"Inter have players with tremendous individual skill, and are one of the best club sides in the world," Venglos said yesterday. "We do not fear them, and I suspect they will respect us." But how much?

Inter have Brehme, the world's most accomplished left back, a dynamic midfield

force in Matthäus, and match-winners up front in Serena and Klinsmann. While Inter's instinct may be to defend, they have the individual ability to score on the break when Villa falter. Villa will want to attack, but risk being undone by shortcomings in midfield and defence.

There is a serious doubt about McGrath, the Irish stalwart, who has an arthritic right knee and missed the goalless draw at Wimbledon on Saturday. He will have a late fitness test. His deputy, Andy Cumyn, aged 22, a utility defender, may be a physics graduate of Birmingham University but could be given an examination by Inter that is beyond his experience and grasp, never mind that Venglos said yesterday, optimistically, that "I'm sure he will fill the breach."

Many matches, especially at international level, are settled in midfield. Against Banik, it was evident that Cowans needs, and is not receiving, creative support in midfield. Tonight, the role of subduing Matthäus — Platt's or Nielsen's? — will be as critical as that of tying down Klinsmann.

Venglos is a manager of wide knowledge, but the expectation must be that Villa do not possess the weapons, nor the form, for such a confrontation as this. I would expect Inter to return home with a draw.

Zenga, their World Cup goalkeeper, who injured a calf muscle in last week's European qualifying tie and missed the Pisa match, is expected to be fit.

Bruges, who beat Lilleström, of Norway, in the opening round, could be without three key players, however, after a bruising 5-1 loss to Anderlecht on Saturday, their first defeat for 33 matches. Disiz, the Hungarian libero, is suspended, while Ceulemans and Farina, the Australian forward, are both nursing injuries.

Milan call on Dutch trio against Bruges

MILAN — AC Milan will be taking nothing for granted when they begin their defence of the European Cup at home to injury-hit Club Brugge, of Belgium, tonight. Milan, who have a bye in the first round, will field their entire Dutch trio of Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard for only the second time, in a European Cup match this year (Reuters reports).

Although his side are expected to be at full strength for the second round, first-leg tie, Arrigo Sacchi, the Milan coach,

is wary of the opposition. "We could not have faced a worse team. It's like those boxers who fall but can't be knocked out," Sacchi said.

Bruges, who beat Lilleström, of Norway, in the opening round, could be without three key players, however, after a bruising 5-1 loss to Anderlecht on Saturday, their first defeat for 33 matches. Disiz, the Hungarian libero, is suspended, while Ceulemans and Farina, the Australian forward, are both nursing injuries.

The arrival of Joe Jordan from Bristol City as manager immediately after that game, however, has yet to have the desired effect upon Hearts' own miserable league form. Not counting the defeat by Celtic, which Jordan was an "observer", Hearts have taken only three points out of the last eight. But the UEFA Cup has, like any cup competition, provided the team with a temporary escape from their domestic nightmare as they illustrated when beating the Soviet runners-up 3-1 in the return leg. Gligi Radice, for whom this is his second spell as coach to Bologna, will be hopeful that a poor response from the public, the chairman has admitted his blunder.

By way of some small compensation, all tonight's spectators will be entered into a free lottery for which first prize will be, appropriately, a Fiat Panda.

HEARTS (probable): H Smith, A McLaren, C Leven, D McPherson, T McKeown, G McQuinn, J McQuinn, W Foster, I Ferguson.

Yuri Savicev, the Soviet forward, cannot play in the European Cup Winners' Cup second-round, first-leg tie for Olympique against Sampdoria tonight, because they kept on playing with their former teams after signing with Olympique (Reuters reports).

Fifa, football's governing body, said yesterday that an international football ban on Iraq was unlikely.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The Cincinnati quarter-back, Boomer Esiason, completed only seven of 17 passes but still found Rodney Holman and Mike Barber with touchdown passes as the Bengals beat the Cleveland Browns 34-13 on Monday. Ickey Woods, in his first game since injury last season, scored the last touchdown.

ATHLETICS: The British Athletics Federation, the single governing body due to be established next April, will be led by a chief executive. The appointment should be made by next autumn.

CRICKET: India has rejected a proposal to play a Test match against Pakistan in Dacca, the Bangladesh capital, next year. Jagmohan Dalmiya, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said India was not in favour of playing a Test match at a neutral venue, a proposal mooted by the Bangladesh cricket board in August.

Jahangir serves a welcome return

MARC ASPLAND



Back in court: The world squash rackets No. 1, Jahangir Khan, who announced his international retirement last month, practises at the Levitt Lams club yesterday. His only involvement in top-level squash will be with the club in the national league

Graf's face shows the strain of a dramatic year

By ANDREW LONGMORE

NORMAL service was resumed on Brighton seaford yesterday as Steffi Graf took the first step in defence of her Midland Bank championship. Less predictably, there were good wins for two of the seven British women in the main draw, Clare Wood beating the No. 4 seed, Natalia Zvereva, and Sara Gomer overwhelming the No. 8 seed, Rachel McQuillan, to reach the second round.

On court, there was little to mark the passing of a year for the champion, who beat the slight and courageous Swede, Cecilia Dahlman, in straight sets. Off it, the paleness of Graf's face, the suspicion in her eyes and the low, hesitant tones of her voice told of a lifetime lived in the last 12 months.

Graf has lost only four times this year. But two of those defeats cost her titles, in Wimbledon to Garrison and the US Open to Seles, and a third came in the final of the French Open to Seles, who had also beaten her a fortnight earlier in the final of the German Open in Berlin. Graf has also had to cope with well-publicised problems in her family and with her health, both of which, as she admitted for the first time yesterday, have driven her to distraction if not quite retirement.

"It has been quite a long year and I am looking forward to getting it over," she said. "There are many moments I don't want to remember, things I don't want to go through again. I have changed in a few ways. At times I became very depressed and very quiet. I just tried to get away from it, but too often I let the problems disturb my concentration on court. Illness didn't help. I was sick in Paris and Wimbledon and I didn't think I would be able to finish some games. I thought about a lot of things through the year, though I never actually thought of quitting."

Graf's private troubles are not over yet; her father has to go to a German court on Friday in connection with a paternity suit, but yesterday she seemed slightly more relaxed than she

has and, in contrast to much of the year, was beginning to sound optimistic again. "There is so much more I want to do. It's not so much winning games. I have done that. It's my own game. My net game is improving and I can go for it a little bit more on the backhand," Graf said. Dammann made a better show in defeat than most, hitting hard on both sides and rarely letting the champion dominate. Graf was surprised, but not enough to be in danger of defeat, and she won 6-2, 6-2 in 72 minutes.

Having suffered from problems with her health and from the death of her father earlier in the year, Gomer will know some of the agonies Graf has endured. She just has not had to live them in the public eye. Yesterday, ranked 130, she emerged from the wilderness with a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Rachel McQuillan, courtesy of a new attitude and a new diagonally strung Mad Rax Power Weave racket.

The former guaranteed more aggression, the latter, according to the advertisement, 20 per cent more power, 30 per cent more control. The combination proved too much for the Australian, ranked 38, and seemed to inspire Wood, who beat the enigmatic Zvereva, who is ranked 154 places above her at 15, 6-3, 6-3, winning the last six games.

"This is the best win of my career and it's particularly nice to do it in my own country," she said.

RESULTS: First round: N. Haverman (Fr) vs C. Kohde-Kilsch (Ger), 7-6, 7-5; C. Coverciano (It) vs C. Tanner (Fr), 6-2, 7-5; C. Lindqvist (Swe) vs J. Durr (Ger), 6-4, 6-2; S. Appelmann (Bel) vs L. Garrone (It), 6-2, 6-4; S. Gomer (GB) vs R. McQuillan (Aus), 6-1, 6-1; S. Cecchini (It) vs S. Barnard (GB), 6-4, 6-4; S. Graf (Ger) vs C. Dahlman (Swe), 6-2, 6-2; V. Zvereva (Bel) vs S. Salmon (GB), 6-3, 6-3; C. Wood (GB) vs N. Zvereva (USSR), 6-3, 6-3.

British youth system, page 38

Bordeaux move
Arnor Gudjonsson, Iceland's international football player, has signed a four-year contract with Bordeaux, of the French first division.

Pittodrie's hopes lie with Watt

By A CORRESPONDENT

ABERDEEN'S ambition to progress beyond the second round of European competition for the first time in five seasons will depend largely on the contribution of Michael Watt, their young goalkeeper.

The 19-year-old is making a first Cup Winners' Cup start, once against the Polish side, Legia Warsaw, at Pittodrie tonight as Andy Dibble, on loan from Manchester City, is ineligible and the regular first choice, Joe Spalding, is nursing a cheekbone fracture.

Alex Smith, the Aberdeen manager, was reluctant to expose Watt to a prolonged spell in the premier division, although he has no reservations about the Scottish goalkeeper's ability to cope with the pressure in a single match. "I know he will be physically and mentally prepared for the task," Smith said. "The few games he played last season, when Spalding was injured, have made him a better keeper and have brought an air of quiet confidence to his play."

The phrase "quiet confidence" is applicable to the entire Aberdeen squad, after their systematic dismantling of the Hearts of Midlothian defence during a 3-0 home win last weekend which perplexed Rydar Kosinski, Legia's coach. Kosinski arrived for his spying mission believing the Scottish game was controlled only with power and passion and was surprised by Aberdeen's poise and composure.

"It was a tremendous display which proved they will be very hard to eliminate," the Polish coach said. He has the added anxiety of knowing his own side is in indifferent form.

Poland's clubs and players possess an unquestionable thirst for Western currency and the drain of talent to Europe's wealthier countries has been severe on the Warsaw team.

Dariusz Dziekanowski and Dennis Wdowczyk were lost to Celtic, and the players they provided of tonight's opponents are poor compensation for the loss of talent. Kosinski clearly relishes the role of underdog, however, and is, to use that tired phrase, quietly confident.

The key to any discomfort for the Aberdeen goalkeeper could rest with Roman Kosinski, a quick and intelligent forward. He impressed when Legia achieved a second-round win in an away leg at Barcelona last season. Aberdeen will be aware of the danger.

Success would be sweet for Jordan

By CLIVE WHITE

IF IT was not for an uncomfortable feeling of déjà vu, Heart of Midlothian would have been uplifted by the news from Bologna these past few days. Their stupor after second round opponents, upon suffering their fifth reverse in six games, had chosen to dismiss their coach just two days before the first leg tie against the Scottish club in Edinburgh tonight.

Such a drastic course of action is not always tantamount to throwing in the towel, as Hearts would testify. Only last month, they did precisely the same thing when they sacked Alex McQueen, who scored three goals in the previous round, opening the way to Dnepropetrovsk. With only a caretaker manager in charge, they then went and pulled off the most unexpected result of any of the British clubs that night by drawing with the Soviets.

The arrival of Joe Jordan from Bristol City as manager immediately after that game, however, has yet to have the desired effect upon Hearts' own miserable league form. Not counting the defeat by Celtic, which Jordan was an "observer", Hearts have taken only three points out of the last eight. But the UEFA Cup has, like any cup competition, provided the team with a temporary escape from their domestic nightmare as they illustrated when beating the Soviet runners-up 3-1 in the return leg. Gligi Radice, for whom this is his second spell as coach to Bologna, will be hopeful that a poor response from the public, the chairman has admitted his blunder.

By way of some small compensation, all tonight's spectators will be entered into a free lottery for which first prize will be, appropriately, a Fiat Panda.

HEARTS (probable): H Smith, A McLaren, C Leven, D McPherson, T McKeown, G McQuinn, J McQuinn, W Foster, I Ferguson.

Yuri Savicev, the Soviet forward, cannot play in the European Cup Winners' Cup second-round, first-leg tie for Olympique against Sampdoria tonight, because they kept on playing with their former teams after signing with Olympique (Reuters reports).

Fifa, football's governing body, said yesterday that an international football ban on Iraq was unlikely.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: The Cincinnati quarter-back, Boomer Esiason, completed only seven of 17 passes but still found Rodney Holman and Mike Barber with touchdown passes as the Bengals beat the Cleveland Browns 34-13 on Monday. Ickey Woods, in his first game since injury last season, scored the last touchdown.

ATHLETICS: The British Athletics Federation, the single governing body due to be established next April, will be led by a chief executive. The appointment should be made by next autumn.

CRICKET: India has rejected a proposal to play a Test match against Pakistan in Dacca, the Bangladesh capital, next year. Jagmohan Dalmiya, secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said India was not in favour of playing a Test match at a neutral venue, a proposal mooted by the Bangladesh cricket board in August.

Fibbens may retire after Perth

By CRAIG LORD

MIKE Fibbens, the fastest swimmer in Britain, believes the dogmatism of the national federation and a concentration of power in Yorkshire may cost him his international career.

The sprinter from Barnet has set a January deadline to find financial support to replace the sponsorship which, he claims, Great Britain Swimming Federation rules lost him. If no help is forthcoming, he will make his last appearance for Britain at the world championships in Perth, Australia, for which he has yet to be selected.

Fibbens, aged 22, who is ranked in the top 30 in the world on 100 metres freestyle, said he would be "some kind of national hero" had he had that

success in tennis. He would also be much wealthier; his parents pay all his costs.

A Canadian sponsorship deal came to grief last summer, when Fibbens was told by the British authorities that he could not compete at the Canadian national championships for his Calgary club because the event clashed with a training camp for the International Cup.

Fibbens said: "Despite a letter explaining that I would lose my deal, the GB people said, 'No way, you're not special' and that was that. These people have to understand that the sport is changing from amateur to semi-professional and we need all the financial help we can get. 'If I cannot find a sponsor who is willing to allocate about

£4,000-a-year to cover my living costs, Perth will mark the end of my international career. I believe the people running swimming in Leeds and Yorkshire have a monopoly on the sport. It's like a silent, closed organisation, and we in the south and other areas don't get a look in."

A spokesman said the Great Britain committee had not known that Fibbens' deal in Canada had been jeopardised. However, he emphasised that rules about attending training camps were made for the benefit of the team as a whole.

Both the Amateur Swimming Association and Paul Bush, the British team manager, who is also a member of the swimming development team at Leeds, sympathised with Fibbens's dilemma.

However, Bush said: "The vast majority of the British team are in the same position. Only three people, including Adrian, are getting notable support."

In Australia, central government has allocated Aus\$250,000 (£114,000) for leading swimmers this year. This is distributed on the basis of world rankings.

David Reeves, the secretary to the ASA, said he would welcome that approach in Britain. "We received about £130,000 for our entire programme this year. That was a quarter of our needs. Of the money the Government gives to the Sports Council, the sports actually get about a quarter."

SPORTS POLITICS

Police presence comes under the microscope

By JOHN GOODBODY

JOHN Carlisle, the chairman of the Conservative parliamentary committee on sport, wants the enquiry into the policing of football matches to look at the deployment of officers inside the ground, with the Football Trust contributing two-thirds of the cost, up to a limit, and the individual clubs finding the rest.

However, Tom Pendry, the chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party's sports committee, said: "There is no rational reason for the escalation of charges inside the ground, particularly given the present lack of incidents there."

Pendry, the MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, said in relation to the cost of policing outside the ground, that these figures would be unnoticed at other sports events.

THE Sports Council for Wales yesterday threatened to withdraw all financial aid to the Welsh Commonwealth Games and unless that included the adoption of these recommendations, it will withhold financial assistance for the 1994 Games in Victoria, Canada.

Tom Baxter-Wright, the chairman of the review group, said: "The council regrets this may be necessary but it feels strongly that it must do everything in its power to improve matters for future Games."

Other recommendations include the appointment of a professional fund raiser, a complete overhaul of the council's organisation and constitution, and selection to be passed down to the individual sports.

SPORTS COUNCIL

Pressure on Wales to improve drug testing

By JOHN GOODBODY

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IN BRIEF

Clark over to League

DARREN Clark, the Commonwealth 400 metres sprint champion, will become the fastest man in the world when he signed a one-year contract with the Sydney rugby league club, Balmain, Clark, fourth in the 400 metres final at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, said he was disillusioned with the level of drug taking among athletes.

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FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Cincinnati Bengals 34, Cleveland Browns 13.

BOXING

GLASGOW: Super-heavyweight, Robert Dack (Switzerland) vs. Barrington Francis (Can), 10th rnd. Scottish heavyweight champion, Les McLean (England), vs. Jim Miller (Scotland), 10th rnd. Light-heavyweight, Gordon Blair (Scotland), vs. Graham Casey (Ireland), 10th rnd. Welterweight, John Reiche (Scotland) vs. Mark Kelly (Ireland), 10th rnd.

CRICKET

HARARE: Zimbabwe 282 (A. Pycroft 85, K. Aron 53), Pakistan 202 (Basil Ali 102 not out, Shoaib Akhtar 51).

FOOTBALL

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: South Korea 1, North Korea 0. Scotland 1, Ireland 0. Late results on Monday.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round: Part 1. West Bromwich Albion 2, Third division Tranmere Rovers 0. Manchester City 2, Fourth division Stockport County 0. Backstop 0.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round: Part 2. Manchester City 2, Stockport County 0. Backstop 0.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round: Part 3. Manchester City 2, Stockport County 0. Backstop 0.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round: Part 4. Manchester City 2, Stockport County 0. Backstop 0.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round: Part 5. Manchester City 2, Stockport County 0. Backstop 0.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round: Part 6. Manchester City 2, Stockport County 0. Backstop 0.

EUROPEAN CUP: Second round: Part 7. Manchester City 2, Stockport County 0. Backstop 0.

REAL TENNIS

BORDEAUX: French Open women's changeover. First round: H. Graf (Swi) vs. C. Tanner (Fr), 6-2, 7-5; C. Lindqvist (Swe) vs. J. Durr (Ger), 6-4, 6-2; S. Appelmann (Bel) vs. L. Garrone (It), 6-2, 6-4; S. Gomer (GB) vs. R. McQuillan (Aus), 6-1, 6-1; S. Cecchini (It) vs. S. Barnard (GB), 6-4, 6-4; S. Graf (Ger) vs. C. Dahlman (Swe), 6-2, 6-2; V. Zvereva (Bel) vs. S. Salmon (GB), 6-3, 6-3; C. Wood (GB) vs. N. Zvereva (USSR), 6-3, 6-3.

VOLLEYBALL

BRASILIA: Men's world championship. Second round: France 3, Canada 1; Netherlands 3, Japan 0.

WINDSURFING

BUENOS AIRES: Lechner world championship. Fourth round: M. Quenon (Fr), 2; C. Lawrence (Aus), 3; S. Ropica (Rus), 1; D. Davis (US), 4; S. J. Garcia (Venez), 5; A. Quenon (Fr), 6; S. Garcia (Venez), 7; S. Garcia (Venez), 8; S. Garcia (Venez), 9; S. Garcia (Venez), 10; S. Garcia (Venez), 11; S. Garcia (Venez), 12; S. Garcia (Venez), 13; S. Garcia (Venez), 14; S. Garcia (Venez), 15; S. Garcia (Venez), 16; S. Garcia (Venez), 17; S. Garcia (Venez), 18; S. Garcia (Venez), 19; S. Garcia (Venez), 20; S. Garcia (Venez), 21; S. Garcia (Venez), 22; S. Garcia (Venez), 23; S. Garcia (Venez), 24; S. Garcia (Venez), 25; S. Garcia (Venez), 26; S. Garcia (Venez), 27; S. Garcia (Venez), 28; S. Garcia (Venez), 29; S. Garcia (Venez), 30; S. Garcia (Venez), 31; S. Garcia (Venez), 32; S. Garcia (Venez), 33; S. Garcia (Venez), 34; S. Garcia (Venez), 35; S. Garcia (Venez), 36; S. Garcia (Venez), 37; S. Garcia (Venez), 38; S. Garcia (Venez), 39; S. Garcia (Venez), 40; S. Garcia (Venez), 41; S. Garcia (Venez), 42; S. Garcia (Venez), 43; S. Garcia (Venez), 44; S. Garcia (Venez), 45; S. Garcia (Venez), 46; S. Garcia (Venez), 47; S. Garcia (Venez), 48; S. Garcia (Venez), 49; S. Garcia (Venez), 50; S. Garcia (Venez), 51; S. Garcia (Venez), 52; S. Garcia (Venez), 53; S. Garcia (Venez), 54; S. Garcia (Venez), 55; S. Garcia (Venez), 56; S. Garcia (Venez), 57; S. Garcia (Venez), 58; S. Garcia (Venez), 59; S. Garcia (Venez), 60; S. Garcia (Venez), 61; S. Garcia (Venez), 62; S. Garcia (Venez), 63; S. Garcia (Venez), 64; S. Garcia (Venez), 65; S. Garcia (Venez), 66; S. Garcia (Venez), 67; S. Garcia (Venez), 68; S. Garcia (Venez), 69; S. Garcia (Venez), 70; S. Garcia (Venez), 71; S. Garcia (Venez), 72; S. Garcia (Venez), 73; S. Garcia (Venez), 74; S. Garcia (Venez), 75; S. Garcia (Venez), 76; S. Garcia (Venez), 77; S. Garcia (Venez), 78; S. Garcia (Venez), 79; S. Garcia (Venez), 80; S. Garcia (Venez), 81; S. Garcia (Venez), 82; S. Garcia (Venez), 83; S. Garcia (Venez), 84; S. Garcia (Venez), 85; S. Garcia (Venez), 86; S. Garcia (Venez), 87; S. Garcia (Venez), 88; S. Garcia (Venez), 89; S. Garcia (Venez), 90; S. Garcia (Venez), 91; S. Garcia (Venez), 92; S. Garcia (Venez), 93; S. Garcia (Venez), 94; S. Garcia (Venez), 95; S. Garcia (Venez), 96; S. Garcia (Venez), 97; S. Garcia (Venez), 98; S. Garcia (Venez), 99; S. Garcia (Venez), 100; S. Garcia (Venez), 101; S. Garcia (Venez), 102; S. Garcia (Venez), 103; S. Garcia (Venez), 104; S. Garcia (Venez), 105; S. Garcia (Venez), 106; S. Garcia (Venez), 107; S. Garcia (Venez), 108; S. Garcia (Venez), 109; S. Garcia (Venez), 110; S. Garcia (Venez), 111; S. Garcia (Venez), 112; S. Garcia (Venez), 113; S. Garcia (Venez), 114; S. Garcia (Venez), 115; S. Garcia (Venez), 116; S. Garcia (Venez), 117; S. Garcia (Venez), 118; S. Garcia (Venez), 119; S. Garcia (Venez), 120; S. Garcia (Venez), 121; S. Garcia (Venez), 122; S. Garcia (Venez), 123; S. Garcia (Venez), 124; S. Garcia (Venez), 125; S. Garcia (Venez), 126; S. Garcia (Venez), 127; S. Garcia (Venez), 128; S. Garcia (Venez), 129; S. Garcia (Venez), 130; S. Garcia (Venez), 131; S. Garcia (Venez), 132; S. Garcia (Venez), 133; S. Garcia (Venez), 134; S. Garcia (Venez), 135; S. Garcia (Venez), 136; S. Garcia (Venez), 137; S. Garcia (Venez), 138; S. Garcia (Venez), 139; S. Garcia (Venez), 140; S. Garcia (Venez), 141; S. Garcia (Venez), 142; S. Garcia (Venez), 143; S. Garcia (Venez), 144; S. Garcia (Venez), 145; S. Garcia (Venez), 146; S. Garcia (Venez), 147; S. Garcia (Venez), 148; S. Garcia (Venez), 149; S. Garcia (Venez), 150; S. Garcia (Venez), 151; S. Garcia (Venez), 152; S. Garcia (Venez), 153; S. Garcia (Venez), 154; S. Garcia (Venez), 155; S. Garcia (Venez), 156; S. Garcia (Venez), 157; S. Garcia (Venez), 158; S. Garcia (Venez), 159; S. Garcia (Venez), 160; S. Garcia (Venez), 161; S. Garcia (Venez), 162; S. Garcia (Venez), 163; S. Garcia (Venez), 164; S. Garcia (Venez), 165; S. Garcia (Venez), 166; S. Garcia (Venez), 167; S. Garcia (Venez), 168; S. Garcia (Venez), 169; S. Garcia (Venez), 170; S. Garcia (Venez), 171; S. Garcia (Venez), 172; S. Garcia (Venez), 173; S. Garcia (Venez), 174; S. Garcia (Venez), 175; S. Garcia (Venez), 176; S. Garcia (Venez), 1

